ALT-CHAT+™

User's Guide

Powered by NeoSpeech™ Text-to-Speech Technology

Saltillo Corporation
2143 Township Road #112
Millersburg, OH 44654
Phone: 1-800-382-8622
Fax:(330)674-6726
Email: service@saltillo.com

Copyright Information

ALT-CHAT and VocabPC are trademarks of Saltillo Corporation.
Macintosh is registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.
Microsoft and Windows are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.
Neospeech is a trademark of Neospeech Inc.
PCS Symbols illustrations are copyright of Mayer-Johnson Co.
SpringBoard Lite, is trademark of Prentke Romich Company.
Storage Card is a registered trademark of SanDisk Corporation.
All other product and company names mentioned herein may be the trademark of their respective owners.
Palmchat is copyright of Inman Innovations
Mycore is copyright of Talk To Me Technologies
My QuickChat 12 [Adult] is copyright of Talk To Me Technologies
My Quickchat 12 [Child[is copyright of Talk To Me Technologies
My QuickChat 8 [Adult] is copyright of Talk To Me Technologies
My Quickchat 8 [Child[is copyright of Talk To Me Technologies
My Quickchat 4 [Child] is copyright of Talk To Me Technologies

DesktopChat^{SE} CD

Saltillo's DesktopChat^{SE} software CD contains three applications:
DesktopChat^{SE}, owned by Saltillo Corporation
Microsoft Voices, owned by Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft's agreement states:

1. **INSTALLATION AND USE RIGHTS.** You may install and use one copy of the software on each computer on your premises that you use to exchange data and software with portable devices powered by a Microsoft operating system.

Their two items are also available from the Microsoft web site in the Downloads and Trials sections at no charge.
Saltillo grants permission for the use of DesktopChat^{SE} on each computer used to exchange data with the **ALT-CHAT**.

ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCE INFORMATION

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Warning! Changes or modifications to this product which are not authorized by Prentke Romich Company could exceed FCC limits and negate your authority to use this product.
This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. You can determine whether this product is causing interference in your radio or television by turning this product off. If the interference stops, it was probably caused by this product or one of its accessories. You can attempt to correct the interference by using one or more of the following measures:

- Turn the television or radio antenna until the interference stops.
- Move this product to one side or the other of the television or radio.
- Move this product farther away form the television or radio.
- Plug this product into an outlet that is on a different circuit from the television or radio; that is, this product should be controlled by different circuit breakers/fuses from the television or radio.
- If necessary, contact a Prentke Romich Company service technician for assistance.

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations. Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respect toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouiller du Canada.

CE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION: Use: 0^{o} - 45^{o} C; Storage: (-20^{o}) - 50^{o} C; 95% maximum relative humidity @ ambient temperatures less than 40^{o} C.

Attention! Consult accompanying documents.

Device not intended to be an emergency call device or sole communication device.

Warnings!

When operating this device in a medical environment, do not use with any product that is not medically approved.

Any mounts used should be fitted by a qualified person. Failure to install the mounting system according to the manufacturer's instructions may result in an injury to the user.

Saltillo Corporation assumes no responsibility for any loss or claims by third parties which may arise through the use of this product.

Saltillo Corporation assumes no responsibility for any damage or loss caused by the deletion of data as a result of malfunction repairs or battery replacement. Be sure to back up all important data on other media (your computer) to protect against its loss.

Table of Contents

1. Welcome to your new ALT-CHAT	**5**
2. Charging the battery of your new ALT-CHAT	**6**
2.1 Checking Battery Status	**6**
3. Installing DesktopChat[SE]	**7**
3.1 Why Use the DesktopChat[SE]	**7**
3.2 DesktopChat[SE] Installation Instructions	**7**
3.3 Ensure Proper Installation	**8**
3.4 Differences Between the ALT-CHAT Device and the DesktopChat[SE]	**8**
4. Getting Started	**9**
4.1 Turning on (Power on) your ALT-CHAT	**15**
4.2 About the Terminology	**17**
4.3 Menus	**19**
4.4 Toolbar	**20**
4.5 The Saltillo Provided Vocabulary Files	**20**
5. Modifying a Vocabulary File on the ALT-CHAT	**22**
5.1 Open an existing Vocabulary File	**22**
5.2 Going into Edit mode	**22**
5.3 Creating a new page	**23**
5.4 Button Properties	**25**
5.5 Creating a button that speaks	**25**
5.6 Change button label/message	**27**
5.7 Adding or editing a button's image	**27**
5.8 Modifying accessibility of a button (Enabled, Visibility)	**29**
5.9 Modifying a button's style	**30**
5.10 Modifying the way a button speaks (Speak Message Only, Speak Label Only)	**31**
5.11 Modifying the way a buttons works with text (Backspace key, Add Message to Display)	**31**
5.12 Using buttons to modify the display(Speak, Stop, Speak last, Clear Display, Clear Last Word)	**32**
5.13 Saving and Loading Display text to and from a file (Load Display, Save Display)	**32**
5.14 Recording and Playing audio (Record Audio, Play Audio)	**34**
5.15 Controlling speech and audio (Volume Up, Volume Down, Toggle mute / unmute)	**37**
5.16 Using character and word prediction	**37**
5.17 Check system information by using buttons (Battery Status, Add date/time to SDB)	**38**
5.18 Load/Open a page	**39**
5.18.1 Using the context menu option	**39**
5.18.2 Open a page in Run mode	**40**
5.19 Navigating through pages using buttons (Navigate, Visit, Navigate Back, Navigate to home)	**41**
5.20 Using an existing button in multiple places in the Vocabulary file	**42**
5.21 Copying- Pasting, Duplicating, and Creating buttons from template	**42**
5.21.1 Copy/Paste buttons	**42**
5.21.2 Copy/Use Same Buttons	**42**
5.21.3 Button Templates	**42**
5.22 Copying and pasting button style	**42**
5.23 Changing the size of a button	**43**
5.24 Moving through pages	**43**
5.25 Creating A Visual Scene or Background Picture On A Page	**44**
5.26 Duplicating a page	**45**
5.27 Creating a page from template	**45**
5.28 Importing a page to a Vocabulary file	**46**
5.29 Setting a home page of a Vocabulary file	**46**
5.30 Editing page properties	**47**
5.31 Creating new Vocabulary file	**47**
5.32 Save a Vocabulary file as	**47**
5.33 Editing Vocabulary file properties	**48**
5.34 Renaming a resource (vocab file, page, button, etc.)	**48**
5.35 Deleting a Resource (vocab file, page, button, etc.)	**49**
5.36 Combining button actions	**50**

6. Library Management & Backup	**51**
6.1 Export/Import To **ALT-CHAT** If Using DesktopChat[SE]	**51**
6.2 Backing Up Your Library	**52**
6.3 Restore From Backup	**52**
6.4 Revert To Factory Default	**52**
6.5 Printing Vocabulary Files	**52**
7. Useful Options on the ALT-CHAT	**53**
7.1 Button Action Options on the **ALT-CHAT**	**53**
7.2 Touchscreen Settings	**55**
7.3 Display Option on the **ALT-CHAT**	**55**
7.3.1 Full Screen	**55**
7.3.2 Microsoft Applications Access	**55**
7.3.3 Style	**56**
7.3.4 Speech Display Bar	**56**
7.4 Speech Options	**56**
7.4.1 Voice Options	**56**
7.4.2 Pronunciation Editor	**57**
7.5 System Settings	**57**
7.6 Hardware Keys	**58**
8. Using Abbreviations to Speak Words	**59**
8.1 **ALT-CHAT** Abbreviation Editor	**59**
9. ALT-CHAT Tools for Literacy	**60**
9.1 **ALT-CHAT** Dictionaries	**60**
9.2 **ALT-CHAT** Dictionary Editor	**60**
9.3 Character Prediction	**60**
9.4 Choosing to Use A Different Keyboard	**60**
9.5 Creating sentences quietly and speaking entire sentence at once	**61**
9.6 Creating buttons that contain Grammar Actions	**62**
10. Switch Scanning	**63**
10.1 Scan Settings	**63**
10.2 Switch Input	**63**
10.3 Scan Timing	**65**
10.4 Scan Options	**65**
10.5 Scan Patterns	**66**
11. Troubleshooting	**67**
11.1 I don't have any Speech/Sound	**67**
11.2 Restarting the **ALT-CHAT**	**67**
11.3 Finding and Loading your Vocabulary file	**67**
11.4 Soft Reset	**67**
11.5 Toolbar and Menus are missing	**67**
11.6 Text window is missing or how to hide it	**67**
11.7 The **ALT-CHAT** turns off by itself	**68**
11.8 The screen is too dark	**68**
11.9 The screen is not responding	**68**
11.10 Vocabulary buttons don't activate but menus do	**68**
11.11 Adjusting Imported Image Size (DesktopChat[SE])	**69**
11.12 Resource * _* is Original and cannot be modified	**69**
11.13 Loading the Default Library Manually on the DesktopChat[SE]	**69**
11.14 Installing DesktopChat[SE] on a Machine Running Vista	**70**
12. Saltillo Tech Support	**71**
13. Reference Section	**72**
13.1 Cleaning up and deleting Vocabulary files	**72**
13.2 Table-based description of all menus and menu options	**72**
14. Care and Maintenance	**75**
15. Warranty	**76**
16. Index	**77**

1. Welcome to your New ALT-CHAT

Thank you for purchasing **ALT-CHAT**, a revolutionary dynamic display communication device.

The **ALT-CHAT** is a unique product combining the software of Saltillo's ChatPC with the durability of Prentke Romich's Springboard Lite device. It was developed to weigh under 3 lbs. so that the powerful communication software could be easily transported alongside the user. We are quite excited about the potential the new 7" dynamic display provides. With the introduction of the **ALT-CHAT**, we continue to improve upon and expand our product family.

We are excited, not only for the update to PalmChat that the larger screen provides but also about the introduction of ***AACcelerate with myVoice.*** AACcelerate is a new unique suite of AAC vocabulary sets being introduced on the Alt-Chat. It is targeting the communication needs of a broad spectrum of child through adult AAC users. The expansive collection incorporates the AAC vocabulary research of Dr. David Beukelman, Dr. Diane Bryen and Barbara Collier which is intuitively woven into the several different core vocabulary sets and phrase based sets.

The **ALT-CHAT** has all of the features of the PDA based ChatPC products and features digitized (recorded) and synthesized (computer generated) speech. The **ALT-CHAT** offers NeoSpeech, a high quality American English speech that performs admirably on the **ALT-CHAT**. The **ALT-CHAT** + and the **ALT-CHAT** D+ have built in static word prediction software. The scanning system should also allow users to use their unique capabilities to customize the most accurate scanning options for them.

Saltillo encourages all programming to be done on the PC using our DesktopChat ^{SE} software and then exported to the **ALT-CHAT.** The Compact Disc for installing the DesktopChat^{SE} software can be found in the back of this user's guide. The DesktopChat^{SE} software not only provides a backup of the communication device, but also provides a place to create and modify vocabulary without keeping the **ALT-CHAT** from its user.

The **ALT-CHAT** machine runs on rechargeable batteries. Before using your device for the first time, charge the battery with the battery charger provided with the device (see next page). Install the DesktopChat^{SE} software onto a separate computer that will be used for programming and keeping a copy of the device user's vocabulary. The DesktopChat^{SE} has been provided on a CD included in your box. We encourage all parties working with this system to use the DesktopChat^{SE} CD to download the program onto their computer system.

Transferring information between the PC and the **ALT-CHAT** and the use of the USB ports have been altered from our previous lines of products. Saltillo has eliminated the need for synchronizing with Mobile Device Center and ActiveSync by allowing USB flash drive units to use importing and exporting features. Further explanations of these features will be found in this user manual. Please take the time to read this section carefully. A USB flash drive can be found in your package for this purpose.

Note: Saltillo recommends using DesktopChat^{SE} for programming whenever possible.

To assist in the instruction of the system, in addition to this User's Guide, we provided a Quick Reference Guide. It can be found in the back of this guide. Please feel free to make copies of the Quick Reference Guide and this User's Guide and provide it to all parties working with the system.

We hope you enjoy your new **ALT-CHAT!**

Contact Saltillo Corporation 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday

Phone: 1-800-382-8622

Email: support@saltillo.com

2. Charging the battery of your ALT-CHAT

Since the device runs on rechargeable batteries it is important to plug in the AC adapter **immediately** after unpacking it to charge the device back up to full power (some power will be drained during shipping). The AC adapter plugs into the jack on the left side of the device.

When the device is charging, an orange light at the top of the **ALT-CHAT** will flash. Rapid flashing indicates fast charging. Slow flashing indicates that the battery is charged but it will continue to trickle-charge as long as the charger is plugged in.

At the end of each day, the device should be plugged in to ensure that the batteries are fully recharged for the next day. A complete recharge only takes about 4 hours, but since it is impossible to "overcharge" the batteries you can safely leave the device plugged in whenever you are not using it. It is recommended to keep the device on charge when the device is not in use.

2.1 Checking Battery Status

To check the current status of the battery:

- Choose **Edit Menu**.
- Choose **Advanced Settings** (if not highlighted, choose **General Settings>Advanced** tab and check **Advanced**)
- Choose **System** tab.
- Choose **Power**.

➲ Learn how to create a button that checks the battery status in section 5.17

⚠ Warning!

Use only the battery charger that came with your device.

Other chargers may damage the batteries in your device.

3. Installing DesktopChat[SE]

In your package you received a CD labeled DesktopChat[SE] (back of this user's guide). DesktopChat[SE] is the **ALT-CHAT** software that is able to be run on a Windows Desktop or Laptop computer.

3.1 Why use the DesktopChat[SE]

- Ease of Use.
- Design and test vocabulary files right on your desktop or laptop machine.
- Maintain a backup of your device.
- Transfer vocabulary files between the DesktopChat[SE] program and the device.
- Transfer text files to the PC for printing Add Photos and Other Images.
- Print pages to create manual boards for backup or for places the **ALT-CHAT** can't go.
- File Management and BackUp.
- Supporting Multiple **ALT-CHAT**s.

Saltillo recommends doing all programming on the DesktopChat[SE] software if possible. Developing vocabulary files in this way can be much quicker than doing so on the **ALT-CHAT** device itself. It also allows you to work on vocabulary files when the device itself isn't available.

Although the dialog boxes will appear slightly different and a couple of the options are modified for the PC, this User's Manual will serve just as well for the DesktopChat[SE] as it does for the device itself.

Note: Having the vocabulary on a second computer is always recommended by Saltillo Corporation as a backup in case of any loss of data on the **ALT-CHAT** mobile device.

3.2 DesktopChat[SE] Installation Instructions

The DesktopChat[SE] CD includes not only the DesktopChat[SE] software but also Microsoft Voices. The Microsoft Voices provide a voice for the DesktopChat[SE] software to use. If you already have a ChatPC Editor application on your computer from a ChatPC you will not need to install the Microsoft voices again, if not, you will want to also install the Microsoft voices. This will place the DesktopChat[SE] application into your Programs folder. This process will not need to be repeated.

Installing:

- Insert the DesktopChat[SE] CD into your computer.
- You should see a Saltillo CD Installer Screen appear (this may take a few moments). If not, you will need to navigate to your CD through Windows Explorer and choose setup.exe.
- The Saltillo CD Installer screen gives you two options of applications to load. DesktopChat[SE] and Microsoft Voices for SAPI 5.1.
- If you want the DesktopChat[SE] to have synthetic speech and you have a compatible sound card (you probably do), you'll also have to install the Microsoft voices. If so, check the voices option.
- Choose **Install**.
- Microsoft Voices for SAPI installs first, then the DesktopChat[SE].
- Step through the installation by choosing Next at each screen and follow the instructions.
- Take the CD out of your computer once the installation is complete.

Open the DesktopChat[SE] software:

- Open the program using the DesktopChat[SE] shortcut that was placed on your computers desktop during installation.
- Choose **Help>Registration** and enter the registration number that has been provided on the label that came with the DesktopChat[SE] CD (You only need to do this the first time).

DesktopChat[SE] should now be open on your computer and should look very similar to the **ALT-CHAT** software running on the device.

Note: DesktopChat[SE] may look larger on your computer screen than it is on the device. Choose View>Screen to set the screen to match your device. The **ALT-CHAT** uses a 800 x 480 WVGA landscape screen. If you still can't see all of DesktopChat[SE] Menus, go to the **Control Panel>Display** and choose the **Appearance** tab and change the font size to Normal.

3.3 Ensure proper installation:

To ensure that the DesktopChat[SE] application and its library installed properly onto the computer:

Choose **File>Vocab File>Load Vocab File**

In the listing of available Vocab Files there should be listed the Original Saltillo supplied vocabulary files:

16 Basic, my Core, my Core Alpha, myQuickChat 12(Adult), myQuickChat 12 (Child), myQuickChat 4 (Child), myQuickChat 8(Adult), myQuickChat 8 (Child), PalmChat 4x9, Primary 3x6, Saltillo Sampler, Spelling, and Vocab PC.

Note: Your **ALT-CHAT** device uses NeoSpeech for speech synthesis, so speech will sound differently on your PC.

Any of these can be chosen and explored by highlighting one and choosing it. Explore the page and button organization by choosing the buttons. Buttons with arrows in the corners will move to new pages. As you explore the page layouts, consider if one of these might work as a starting point for the intended device user.

PalmChat 4x9 is a Word based layout using 36 buttons per page. **16 Basic** is set up with 16 buttons per page and intended to be very generic. **Primary 3x6** has 18 buttons and is intended for school age individuals. **Saltillo Sampler** is just a sample of possible button layouts and not intended to support anyone's language needs. A description of the **Vocab PC** is included in the back of this User's Guide (different colored paper). This tour guide describes the users the author was working with and provides rationales and teaching support for VocabPC.

myCore is a clever fusion of core and phrase based vocabulary geared toward literate AAC users. **myQuickChat** is an introductory communication system geared toward child and adult AAC users with complex communication needs. **myQuickChat** is available for both kids and adults in 4, 8 and 12 locations, each with an identical 16 location Support Master Home Page. **myQuickChat** was created to offer a high frequency, phrase-based communication system in a easy to use yet very engaging format. The progressive system offers a variety of topics for everyday needs and conversation and provides AAC users immediate and more successful communication exchanges within a variety of settings.

The "Original" vocabulary files are not able to be modified. If one of the files would be appropriate for the device user, a copy will need to be made by choosing **File>Vocab File>Save Vocab File As.**

The device user's vocabulary file can all be created using DesktopChat[SE] and then exported to the **ALT-CHAT** for use.

If the default vocabulary files are NOT listed see "**Loading the Default Library Manually to DesktopChat[SE]**" in the troubleshooting section

3.4 Differences between the ALT-CHAT Device and the DesktopChat[SE]

You can use DesktopChat[SE] to do just about anything that you can on your actual **ALT-CHAT** device. The only difference is that the dialog boxes will appear slightly different and a couple of the options are modified for the PC.

Menus are placed at the top of the screen on the Desktop and at the bottom of the **ALT-CHAT** device. This user's guide uses pictures interchangeably throughout its instruction.

When editing and accessing menus on the **ALT-CHAT** device, pushing and holding the screen opens context menus. On the DesktopChat[SE] right-clicking on the vocabulary window will open the context menus for editing. The menus work primarily the same in both systems regardless of where the menu is placed or how it is accessed with a push and hold or a right click.

4. Getting Started

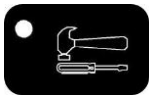
The Front of the ALT-CHAT

From left to right:

BATTERY CHARGING: When you plug in the charger, the "Charging" light flashes. A rapid flash indicates fast charging. A slow flash indicates that the battery is charged but it will continue to trickle-charge as long as the charger is plugged in.

BATTERY LOW: When the battery is low a low battery message will appear on the touch screen. Plug in the battery charger when this happens.

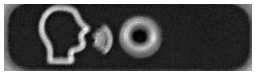
ON/OFF: Turns the device **ON** or **OFF**. If you turn the device off with this button, you must use it to turn the device back on.



TOOLS: Hides or shows the Menus used for customizing

Go to Home Page: This button can be modified to perform various actions - defaults to Go to Home Page.

Clear Display: This button can be modified to perform various actions - defaults to Clear the Display.



RECORDING MICROPHONE: face this area when recording messages

The Back of the ALT-CHAT

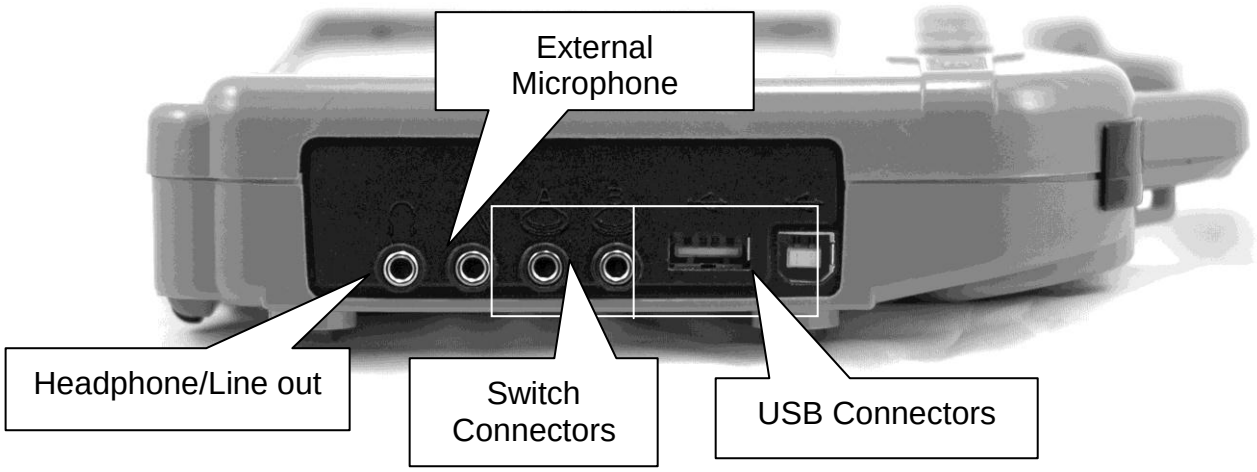
Battery Door: The device batteries are underneath this door. There is also a card slot at the top of the battery door that holds the system software card. You can remove the battery door by unscrewing it from the case should you need to.

Reset Button: Unbend a paper clip and poke it into the hole to press the reset button. If your **ALT-CHAT** stops working for some reason, push the reset button to see if that solves the problem.

Wire Table Stand: The wire table stand allows the **ALT-CHAT** to sit on a table in a more vertical position rather than flat on a surface. Just pull it out from the bottom edge of the case.

Wheelchair Mounting Plate: The optional wheelchair mounting plate allows the **ALT-CHAT** to be attached to a wheelchair mount. This plate is compatible with the Prentke Romich Quick Release Mount, which then attaches to most mounting systems.

The Right Side of the ALT-CHAT



Connectors from Left to Right

Headphone/Line Out: Plug stereo headphones in here for auditory scanning.

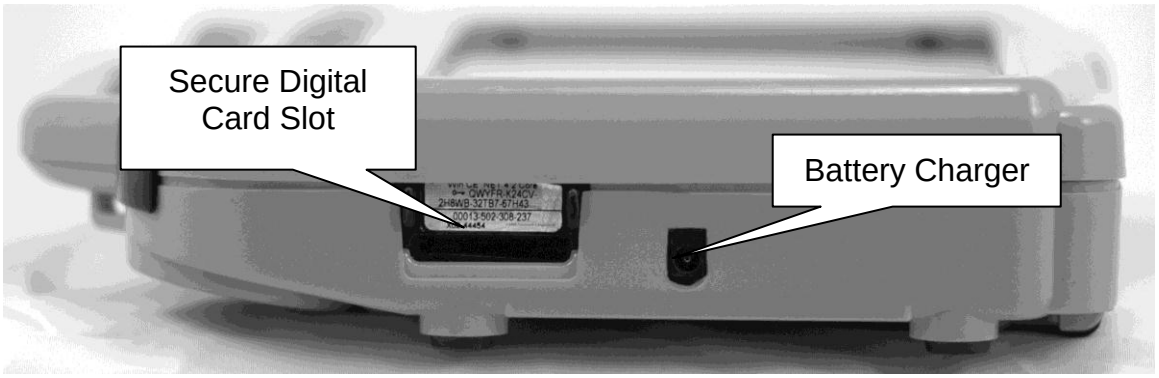
External Microphone: Plug an external microphone in here as an alternative to the built in microphone on the front of the device.

Switch Connectors: Plug single switch into Switch A or Switch B ports.

Rectangular USB Connector: A USB flash drive plugs into this port. Use it for transferring vocabulary files.

Square USB Connector: Provides typical USB connection.

Left Side of the ALT-CHAT



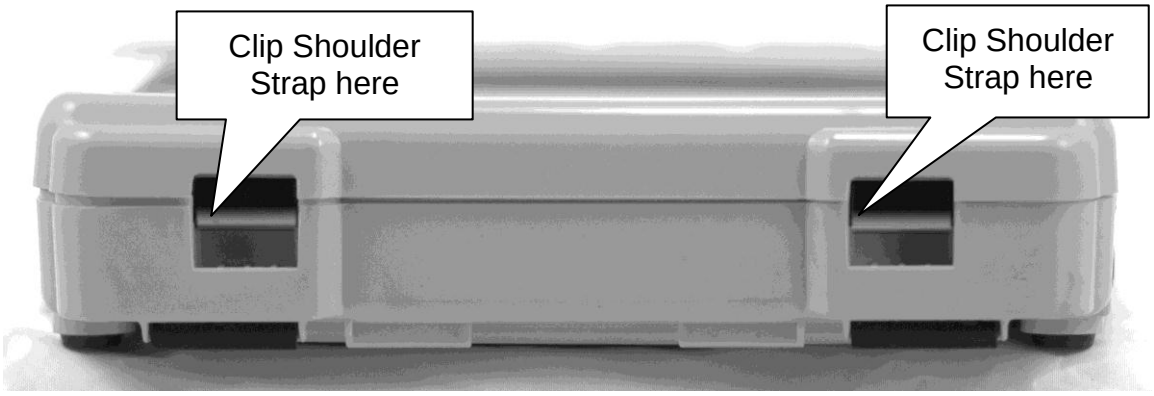
Secure Digital Card Slot: This will accept a Secure Digital storage card.

Battery Charger: Plug one end of the battery charger in here. Plug the other end into a working wall outlet.

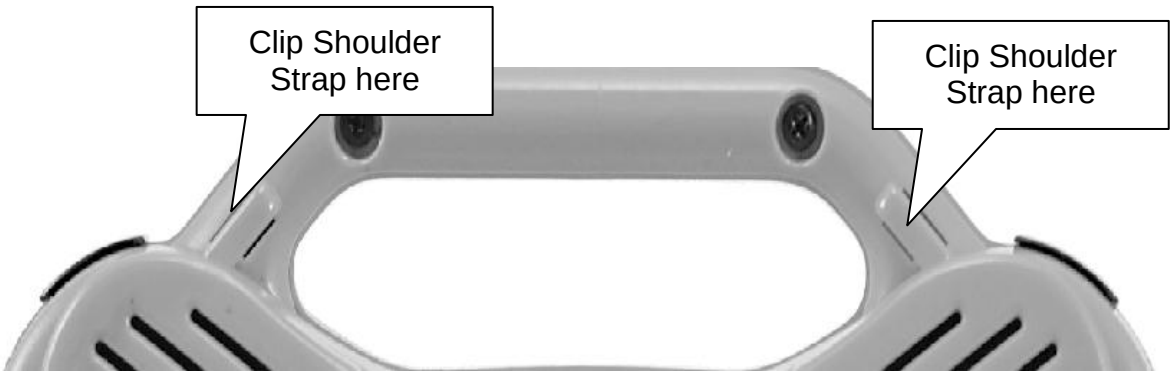
⚠ Warning!

Use only the charger that came with your ALT-CHAT. Other chargers may damage the batteries!

The Bottom of the ALT-CHAT



There are two shoulder strap clips located on the bottom and top of the device (behind the handle) for the optional shoulder strap.

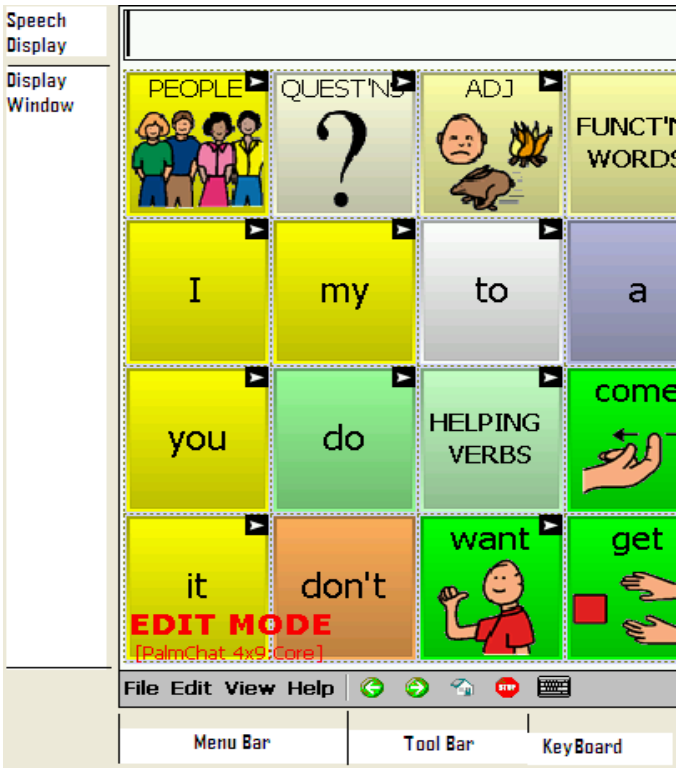


About the Touchscreen

Warning! The touch screen is a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen. Should the display break (unlikely except under extreme circumstances) and you come into contact with the liquid crystal, wash or rinse your skin thoroughly. Be careful to avoid splintered glass.

➲**Do not** use sharp, pointed objects on the touch screen. They will damage the screen.
Although most times fingers are used to access the touch screen, a stylus' or other smooth pointing device can also be used.

ALT-CHAT Window: The appearance of the **ALT-CHAT** window will vary depending on the settings and needs of the device user.



The **ALT-CHAT** window is divided into three regions. At the bottom of the screen, there is a **Menu Bar** on the left and a **Tool Bar** to the right of it. These controls are used to configure the software.

By default, at the top of the screen is the **Speech Display Bar (SDB)**. This is the area where text will appear as you type it. Below the **Speech Display Bar** is the **Vocabulary Page**. This is where the symbol pages will appear. By loading new pages into the application, you can completely change the **Page** appearance.

The center and majority of the screen is taken up by the vocabulary pages. These pages vary in appearance with different colors, different numbers of buttons and the items on each button can be different.

➲The keyboard icon has been removed for ALT-Chat D+ models.

Note: The DesktopChat^{SE} software displays the menu bar at the top of the screen. Most of the instruction for using the menus remains the same for both the device and computer use, only the placement of the menus is different. We will use the photos and instructions interchangeably throughout these instructions.

4.1. Turning ALT-CHAT On and Off

Use the

(I/O) button to turn your device On and Off. When you turn the device off with the I/O button, you must turn it back on using the I/O button.

There is also an **Auto Power Down** option. The default setting is 3 minutes.
When your device is idle (no key activations) for 2 minutes the backlight will dim on your display. Activate any key or switch to bring it back.

After **THREE MINUTES** of no key activations, the device turns Off. Activate any key or switch to bring it back.

We recommend that you leave Auto Power Down set to On. You can change the auto power down time by choosing **Edit>Advanced Settings>Power.**

If you change **Auto Power Down** to **Off**, the device will never turn Off unless you press the **I/O** button on the top of the case. If you forget that you turned Auto Power Down to Off and the device never goes Off, the batteries will eventually go dead.

Troubleshooting Tip: If your device does not turn off or come back on as you expect it to charge your battery and then push the reset button if the power button still doesn't work.

About the Batteries

⚠**Always use the battery charger that came with your device**. Any other charger may damage your batteries.

At the end of each day, the device should be plugged in to ensure that the batteries are fully charged for the next day. A complete recharge only takes about 4 hours, but since it is impossible to "overcharge" the batteries you can safely leave the device plugged in whenever you are not using it.

Checking Battery Status

To check the current status of the battery:

- Choose **Edit** Menu.
- Choose **Advanced Settings** (if not highlighted, choose **General Settings>Advanced** tab and check **Advanced**).
- Choose **System** tab.
- Choose **Power**.

➲ Learn to create a button that checks the battery status in section 5.17

Low Battery Warning

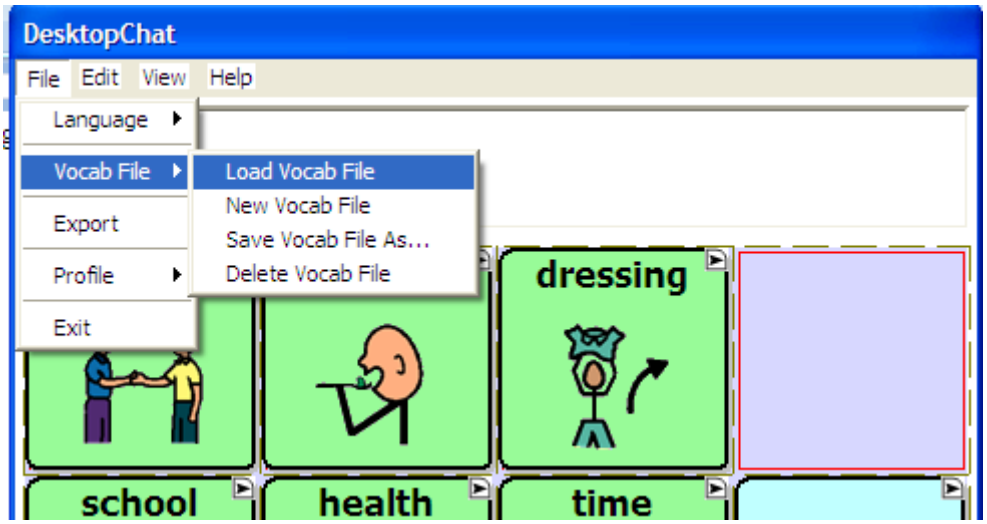
When the batteries in your device get low, a Low Battery message "**The remaining battery capacity is low! Please charge the batteries soon!"** appears on the screen.

➲ While Low Battery, you can no longer do any editing.

➲ When the batteries are dead, the device powers down completely and you cannot use it.

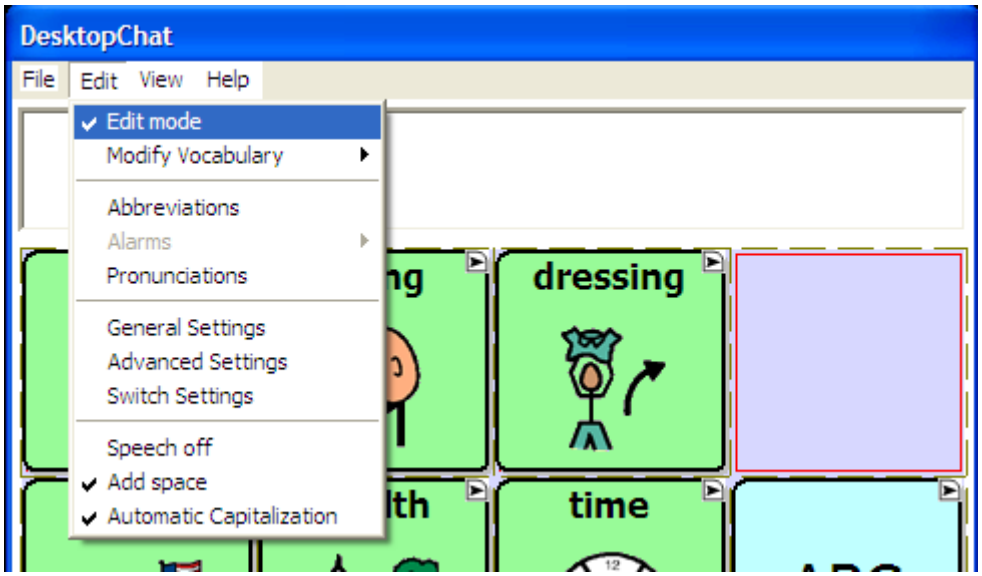
4.2. About the Terminology

A **Vocabulary file** is a set of vocabulary pages. Each vocabulary file consists of a series of pages, each with a grid of onscreen buttons. These buttons may include text labels, graphical symbols, or both. The number of buttons, as well as their appearance, can be customized. Depending upon the type of button, selecting it may speak a word or sentence, navigate you to a different page, or perform an editing action. Buttons are selected by tapping or pressing on the touch screen.



Library is the term used that includes all vocabulary files, pages, buttons, sounds & all icons (including imported pictures). The **default Library** is the original set of vocabulary files supplied by Saltillo along with the original symbol sets.

Edit Mode refers to a mode set to allow the programmer access to all of the tools needed to Edit or modify the vocabulary pages. When in Edit Mode the name of the Vocabulary File and the name of the current Page showing is written across the bottom of the screen. **Run Mode** is set when editing has been completed and the **ALT-CHAT** is ready for communication.

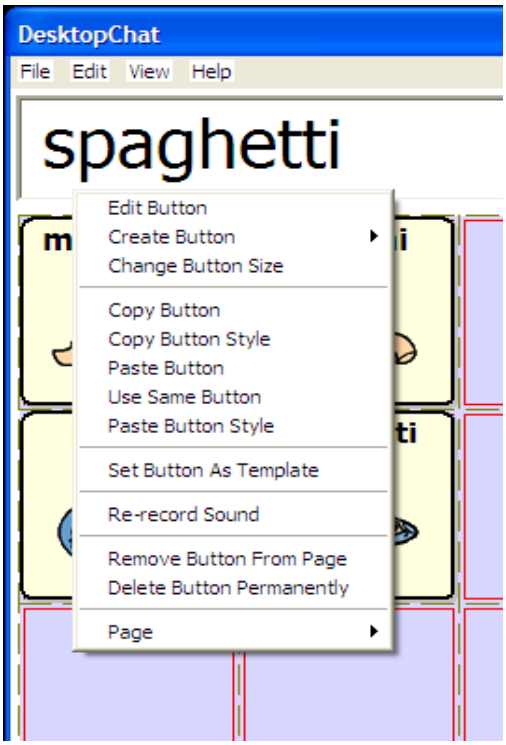


SDB, Speech Display Bar and Display are used interchangeably throughout these instructions. They are all used to represent the window in which text appears when buttons are pressed.

4.3. Menus

The menus at the bottom left of the **ALT-CHAT** window (e.g., File, Edit, View, Help) allow you to determine which vocabulary files will be used, which augmentative options are enabled, how and when to speak messages, and how a wide variety of other options are configured. Some of these features are accessed directly through the menus, while others are accessed through pop-up dialog boxes called up by simply tapping and holding.

The pop-up dialogs are called context menus. They are accessed by a "tap and hold" (if using the DesktopChat[SE] these menus are accessed by a right mouse click). There are many instances when context menus are available to you when in Edit Mode as well as a context menu available for the Speech Display Bar while you are in Run Mode.

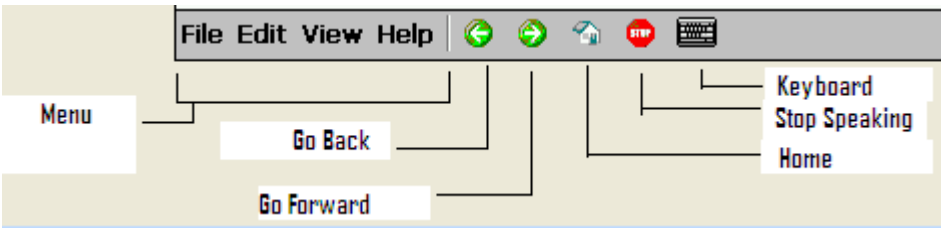


You can access menu items using the touch screen, either with the stylus or your finger. Tap on the menu name. Once the menu appears, tap on the selection you want.

Note: If the menus do not appear at the bottom of the display of the device, the **ALT-CHAT** has been set to "full screen" mode. To exit Full Screen mode press the tools button on the front of the device.

4.4. Toolbar

The tool bar to the right of the menu bar provides a quick way to access some of the more common menu items, as well as providing additional functionality. The Left Arrow button allows you to go back in the vocabulary file. The Right Arrow button performs a forward action in the vocabulary file. The Home button navigates you to the home page of the vocabulary file. Finally, to stop speech while still speaking, tap the Stop button.



While in Edit Mode there are various times when the programmer needs to use a keyboard for naming pages, naming buttons, or typing in vocabulary. The Editing keyboard can be opened and closed by tapping on the small picture of the Keyboard. Tapping it once will open the keyboard and tapping it again will close it.

This keyboard has been removed in **ALT-CHAT D +** models.

Note: This keyboard is not intended for the device user to use. Pages created with various keyboard layouts can be used for the device user.

4.5. The Saltillo–Provided Vocabulary Files

ALT-CHAT includes a variety of vocabulary files provided by Saltillo Corporation. These may be used as a starting point for your own Vocabulary File, or simply used as demonstration. They are all labeled with "Original" in their file name.

myCore is a clever fusion of core and phrase based vocabulary geared toward literate AAC users. Variations on the Alt-Chat include various **myCore** options.

myQuickChat is an introductory communication system geared toward child and adult AAC users with complex communication needs. **myQuickChat** is available for both kids and adults in 4, 8 and 12 locations, each with an identical 16 location Support Master Home Page. **myQuickChat** was created to offer a high frequency, phrase-based communication system in a easy to use yet very engaging format. The progressive system offers a variety of topics for everyday needs and conversation and provides AAC users immediate and more successful communication exchanges within a variety of settings.

Take some time to explore each of these files and see if one might be appropriate for the device user or get some ideas for creating your own. Also, in the very back of this binder (gray pages) there is a tour guide from the author of VocabPC, Gail Vantatenhove, PA, MS, CCC-SLP, describing her vocabulary. Prior to that is a smaller section dedicated to the Primary 16 vocabulary file, and PalmChat.

To view the provided vocabulary files, choose **File>VocabFile>Load Vocab File** and choose one of the Available Vocabulary Files and explore.

The Saltillo-provided vocabulary files are all created as read only files. This means that these particular vocabulary files cannot be modified. A copy of the file needs to be made and then any modification appropriate for the device user can be made to the new file. This maintains the original, default vocabularies in case they may be needed at a later time.

To create a copy of an existing vocabulary file:

- Choose the **File** Menu.
- Choose **Vocab File.**

- Choose **Save Vocab File As**.
- Type in a name to represent the file (i.e. Jane4_08).
- Select **Save** (this may take a few minutes).

The new vocabulary file is ready to be modified to meet the device user's needs. The remainder of this User's Guide describes how to modify buttons, how to create new pages, and how to modify the settings for the most effective access technique.

5. Modifying a Vocabulary File on the ALT-CHAT

5.1 Open an existing Vocabulary file

ALT-CHAT allows you to load a variety of pages that have different button layouts. Each set of pages, or vocabulary set, is called a vocabulary file. **ALT-CHAT** includes a variety of Default vocabulary files. Saltillo-Supplied vocabulary files can be used as a starting point for a configuration or simply used as demonstration. To see the vocabulary files included with **ALT-CHAT:**

- Tap on the **File** menu.
- Choose **Vocab File.**
- Tap on **Load Vocab File** (Saltillo's files are followed by "Original").
- Simply select the one you want to load and tap **Choose.**

Complicated configurations with many pages may take up to 2 minutes to load, but most will load more quickly. Once loaded, the **ALT-CHAT** can be left running and your chosen vocabulary file will always be ready for you to use. Just start tapping the onscreen buttons to explore the vocabulary.

Saltillo-Supplied vocabulary files can not be modified. To make a copy of the file to be customized for your client, see previous page.

5.2 Going into Edit mode

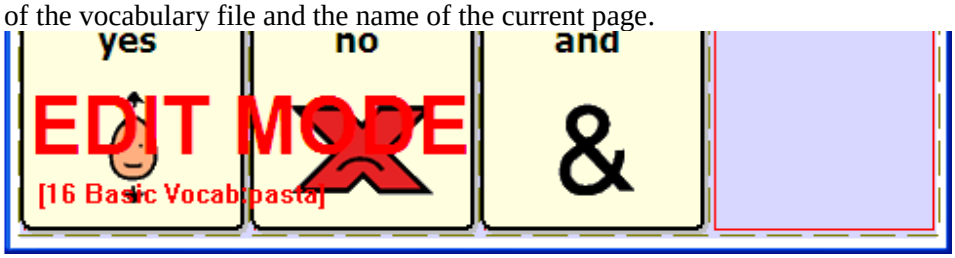
To make any changes to a vocabulary file the system must be in **Edit Mode**.
To edit a vocabulary file or any resource linked to it (pages, buttons), go into **Edit Mode** by:

- Tap on the **Edit** menu.
- Check **Edit Mode.** The **Edit Mode** will be activated automatically.

Note: The **Modify Vocab File** of the **Edit** menu becomes active only while in Edit Mode.

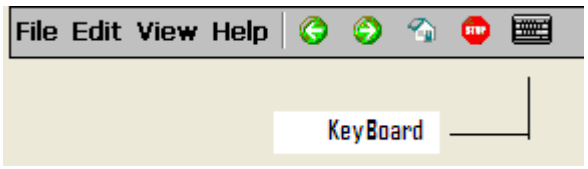
In **Edit Mode**, a line of text will appear at the bottom of the screen indicating that the software is in **Edit Mode**, along with the name of the vocabulary file and the name of the current page.

Edit Mode Indicator_____



Important Note: Always make sure that you have the current vocabulary from your **ALT-CHAT** unit prior to making changes on the DesktopChat[SE].

Editing Keyboard:
While in **Edit Mode** there are various times when the programmer needs to use a keyboard for naming pages, naming buttons, or typing in vocabulary. The Editing keyboard can be opened and closed by tapping on the small picture of the Keyboard at the bottom of the screen. Tapping it once will open the keyboard and tapping it again will close it.

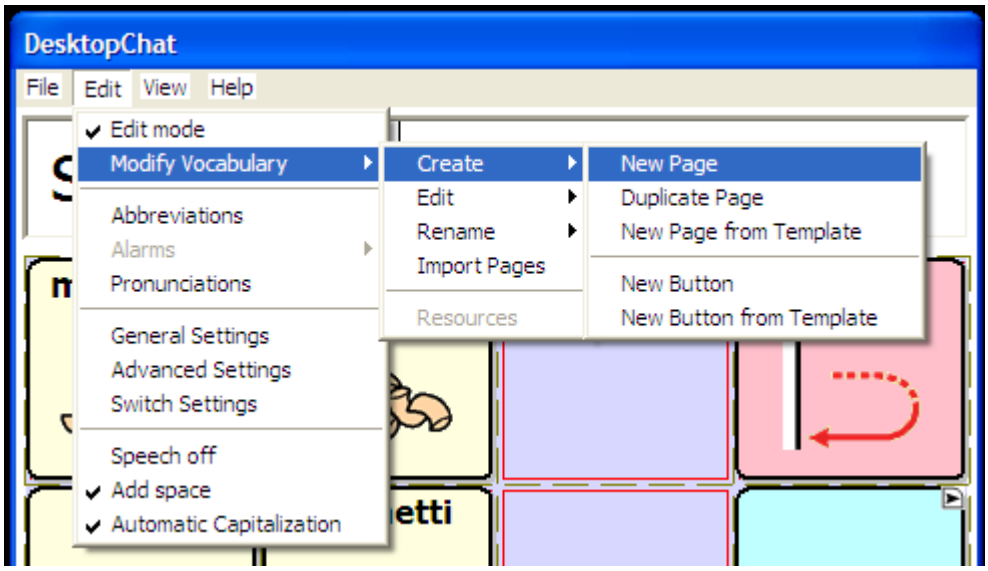


Note: This keyboard is not intended for the device user to use. Pages created with various keyboard layouts can be used by the device user.

5.3 Creating a new page

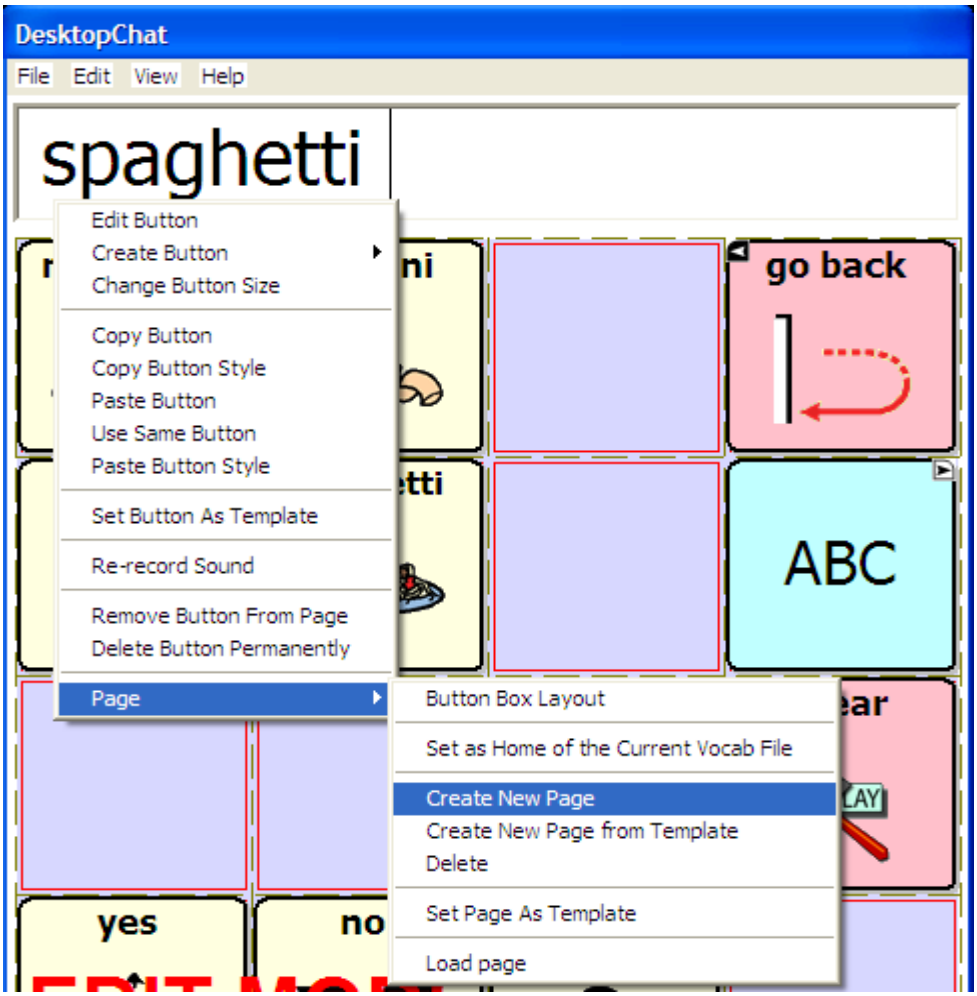
Pages are levels of specific vocabulary linked together to create a vocabulary file specific to the device user. There are two options for creating new pages, duplicating an existing page or creating a new page from scratch. To create a new page:

- Go into **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Select the **Edit** menu from the menu bar.
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary**
- Choose the **Create** menu item.
- Choose **New Page.**

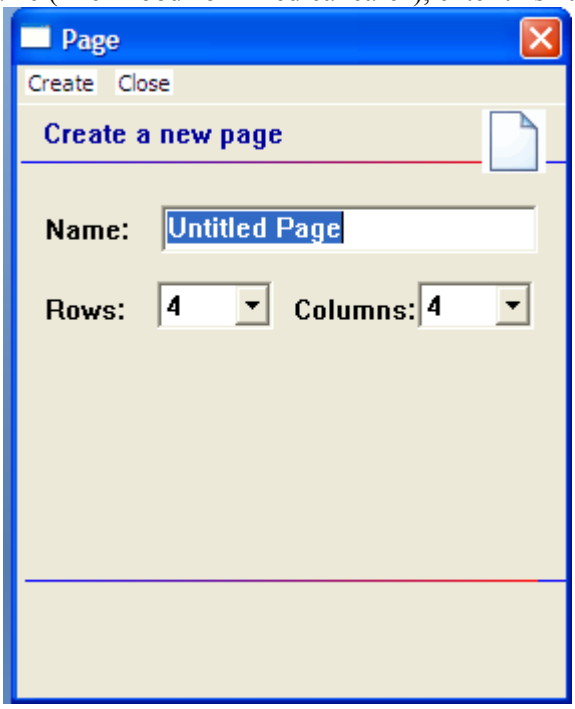


Or you can tap and hold the stylus in your Vocabulary Window/current page to see the Editing Menus.

- Choose **Page.**
- Choose **Create New Page.**



A dialog will pop up and request information about the new page. Page names are important for vocabulary files with multiple pages since they provide a way to navigate from one page to another. If you want to give the page a more descriptive name (like “Food” or “Medical care”), enter this name in the **Name** box.



You will also have to select the number of rows and columns that appear on the page. The available grid sizes range from 1x1 up to 19x19.

Most pages are designed for use with pictures and icons, and have buttons which are more-or-less square. For example, the 10x10 configuration has buttons that are too squat to include both text labels and symbols. You can mix pages with different grid sizes in a single vocabulary file. After you tap on the **Create** button, a blank page will be created in your library and you will be ready to place buttons.

5.4 Button Properties

The Button Properties pages hold all of the options for changing the appearance and the action of each button. To enter Button Properties:

- Enter **Edit Mode** by choosing **Edit Menu** and checking **Edit Mode.**
- Push and hold on a button or a blank spot where you would like to add a button (right click if using DesktopChat^{SE} software).
- If editing an existing button choose **Edit Button**. If adding a new button choose **Create New Button.**

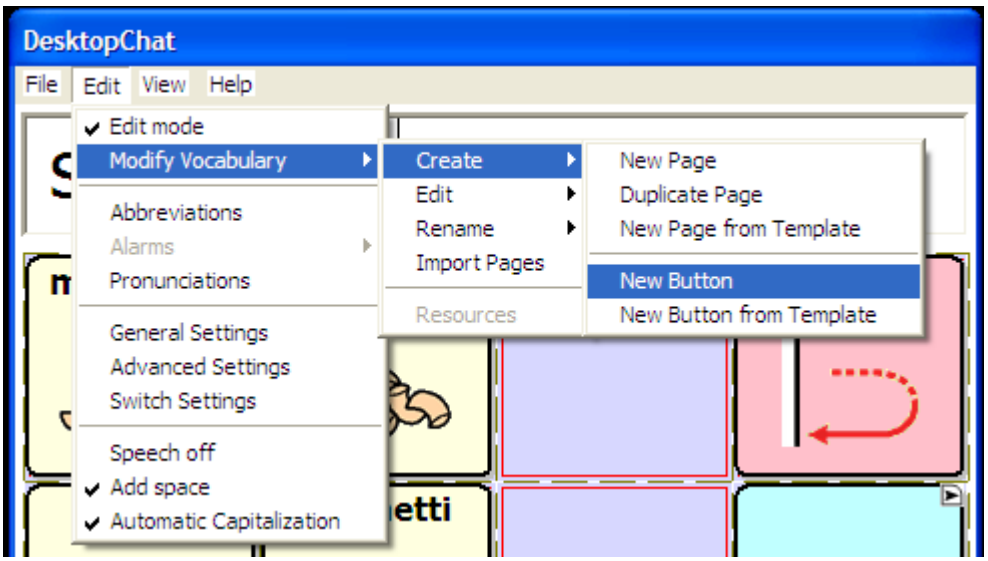
This will open up the Button Properties page with the **General** tab showing. The **General** tab includes the label that gets displayed on the button, the message that gets spoken if the button action is set to speak the message, the options for finding the picture for the button, and the options to show or hide the button, and enable or disable the button.

The **Style** tab holds all of the options that determine how the button will appear on the page (i.e. font and color). The **Actions** tab determines what the button will actually do when selected. A button may contain just one action or multiple actions depending on what is needed.

5.5 Creating a button that speaks

You can place a new button on the page in two ways:

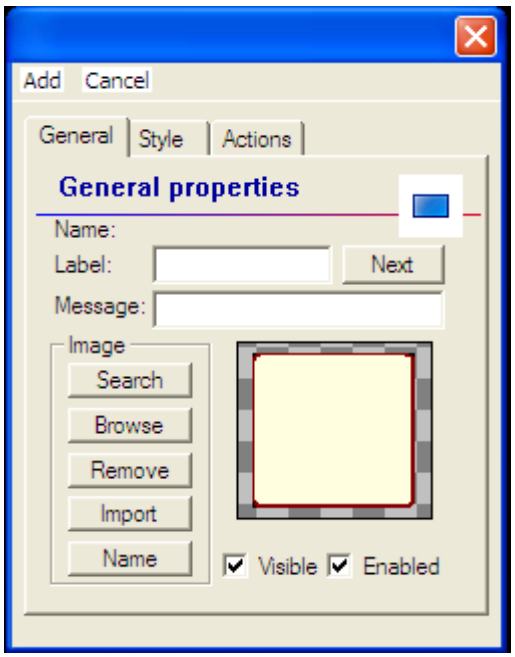
- Make sure the **Edit mode** is active.
- Select the **Edit** menu from the menu bar.
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary.**
- Choose the **Create** menu item.
- Choose **New Button.**



or

- Tap on the page and hold the stylus or right click anywhere on the page if using DesktopChat to call up the menu options.
- Choose **Create New Button** option.

Both ways will call a general properties dialog to pop up.



This dialog screen will request information about the new button. To create a "**Speak Message**" in the **General** tab, specify the following properties of the button:

- Enter **Label** to be displayed on the button. If there is a picture on the button, the label text will appear at the bottom of the button. If there is no picture, the text will be centered in the button. (label position can be changed in the Style tab)
- If the spoken message is different than the label, type the message into the message box.

See Section 5.7 for adding images to buttons.

Each new button defaults to contain an Action of Speech Message.

Tap OK and a Speak Message button is added to the page.
These steps apply to all types of buttons.

5.6 Change button label/message

Regardless of a button's action, you can always edit it's label or message text. Simply go into **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode) and tap & hold on the button(right click if using DesktopChat). This evokes the context menu options. Choose **Edit Button** option. The **General Properties** will appear so that you can edit the button.

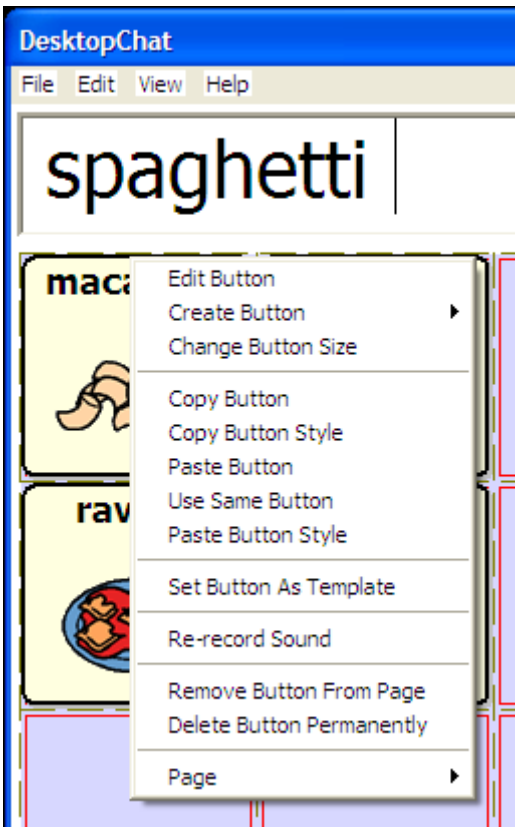
Now you can edit the current button label and/or message by entering text in the Label slot and the Message slot respectively. Tap the **Ok** button to apply your changes to the button.

5.7 Adding or editing a buttons image

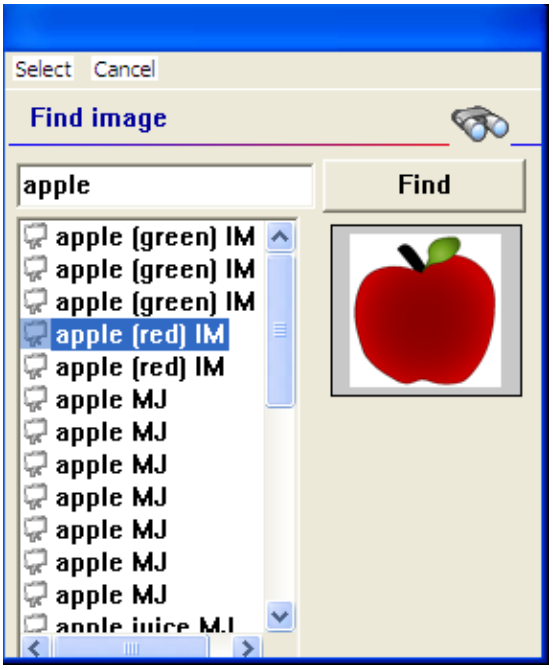
In an attempt to make the **ALT-CHAT** device perform as efficiently as possible Saltillo has only a limited number of symbols available for programming. Using the DesktopChat[SE] for programming is suggested whenever possible. The DesktopChat[SE] provides most Mayer Johnson PCS sets and the Imagine Symbols.

Button images can be added or edited only in **Edit mode**.

- Tap and hold the stylus on the Speak Message button to open the menu options.
- Choose **Edit Button** option. A general properties screen will appear.

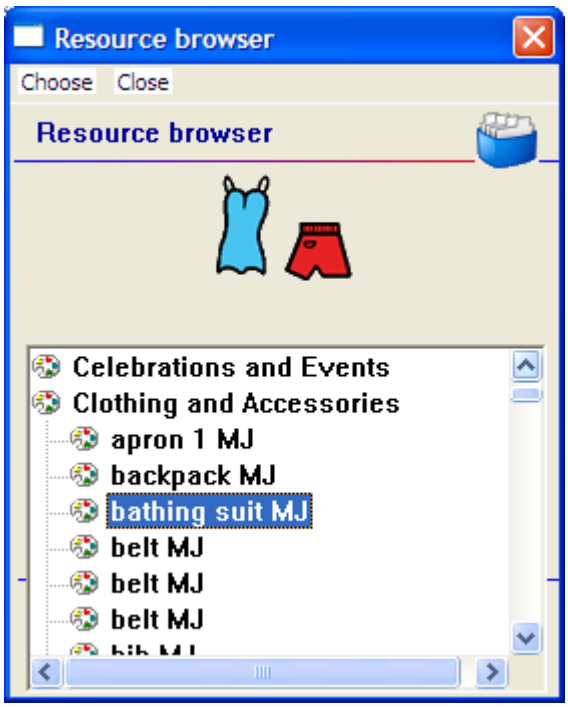


Use the **Image** region in the **General** tab controls to add or edit a button's picture.
You can add a new icon by following these steps:



- By tapping the **Search** button **ALT-CHAT** performs an automatic search on any text in the Label box first. After that search a Find Image dialog will pop up. If the appropriate icon wasn't found in the original search, enter a new item to search on in the text box and tap the Find button. The **ALT-CHAT** will search for that word and list all icons found that have that word included in their name. To see the options just tap on each one and they will be previewed in the box to the right.
- Use the preview box to decide which image to use.
- Tap the **Select** button to add the image.

Browsing for Icons is also available. Choosing **Browse** from the **Image** area provides a listing of categories to choose from as an alternative way to find the most appropriate icon for the button. Open the category with a single tap and then tapping on the icon name provides a preview of the icon prior to making your selection.



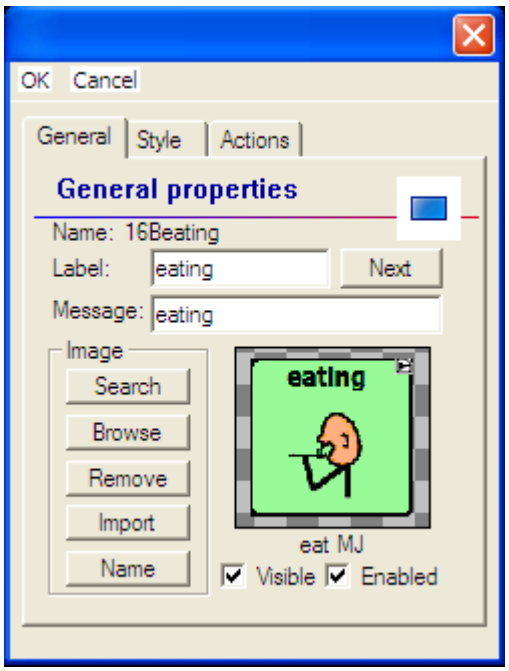
A button preview will be presented in the preview slot of the **General Properties** screen. Select the **OK** button to save the image to the button or, if this button appearance does not meet your expectations, tap the **Remove** button to remove the image from the button.

If you find that the symbol you need is not available within the existing **ALT-CHAT** symbol library, you can create your own symbol using a graphics program on your PC, and then importing that image directly into your configuration.

Using the DesktopChat[SE] program, it is possible to use your own digital pictures, scanned pictures, downloaded images or homemade symbols on any button.

To include a picture not in the ALT-CHAT library

- The DesktopChat[SE] program must be pre-installed on the computer you plan to use to import the picture (section 3).
- The picture or pictures you want to use must also be on this same computer.
- Open a copy of the device user's latest vocabulary file using the DesktopChat[SE] software.
- Go to the **View** menu.
- Choose **Edit Mode**.
- Right click on the proper key.
- Choose **Import**.



You can now browse your computer's hard disk for the pictures you want to use. When you find the image you want to use, double-click on it to select it.

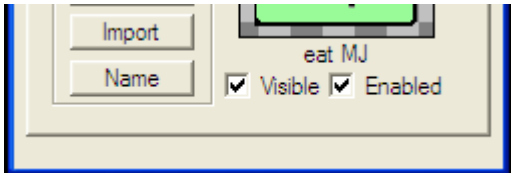
You will see a preview of it scaled to fit the button. Once you have selected the image you wish to import, click on **OK** and the image will appear on the button.

If your image doesn't fit the button properly see 11.11 Troubleshooting, "Adjusting Imported Image Size".

5.8 Modifying accessibility of a button (Enabled, Visible)

The accessibility of buttons can be controlled by using the Visible/Enabled options on the button properties screen. These functions may be useful when initially presenting the vocabulary to the device user. Presenting all buttons at once may be overwhelming. Hiding some of the buttons will enable the device user to more easily focus on specific vocabulary being presented.

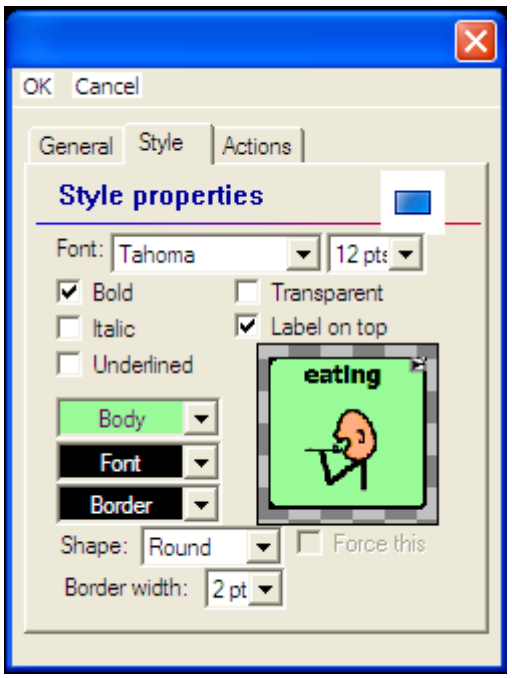
- Enter **Edit Mode**, then tap and hold (right click) the button to be modified.
- Select **Edit Button** to bring up the **General Properties** tab.
- Unchecking the **Visible** box makes a button invisible in standard mode and automatically disables the button action.
- Check the **Enabled** box to activate a button. If unchecked the button will be deactivated.



5.9 Modifying Button's style

Button style can be modified only in **Edit mode**.

- Tap on a button and hold the stylus to open the menu options.
- Choose **Edit Button** option. A **General Properties** screen will appear.
- Tap on the **Style** tab. The button style properties will appear.

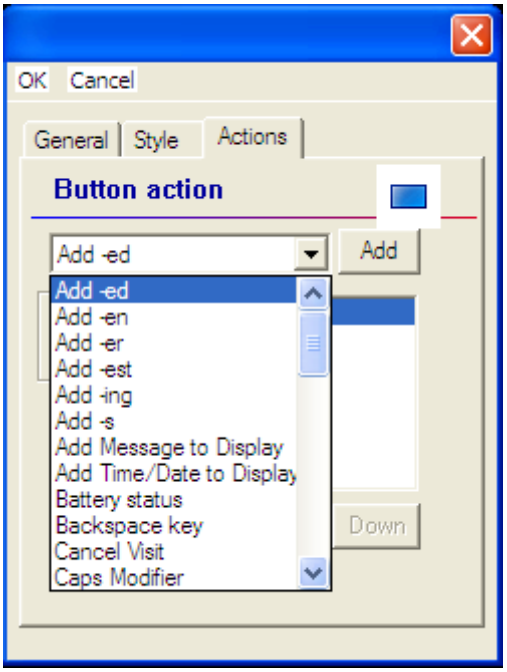


- Simply use the pull-down lists to select the **Font color**, **Body color**, **Border color**, **Font**, **Size**, **Shape** and **Border width** you want for the button.
- Check the **Label on top** box to define the label position on the button.
- Check the **Bold**, **Italic**, **Underlined** boxes to modify label text.

5.10 Modifying the way a button speaks (Speak Message Only, Speak Label Only)

The way a button speaks can be modified by simply editing the button action. All button modifications are performed only in **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).

- Tap on the **Speak Message** button and hold the stylus to open the menu options.
- Choose **Edit Button** option. A **General Properties** screen will appear.
- Tap on the **Actions** tab. The button action properties will appear.
- Tap the **Remove** button to remove the currently set action - Speech Message.



- Choose the **Speak Message Only** action from the drop-down action list. This button will only pronounce the button message and will not display it.
- Tap the **Add** button next to the action list. The action will appear in the preview slot.
- To complete the operation tap on the **OK** button. Now the Speak Message button is transformed into a **Speak Message Only** button.

Perform the same steps to transform the new Speak Message Only button into a **Speak Label Only**. The Speak Label Only button will only pronounce the button label.

Speech settings in General Settings Menu also determine how buttons are spoken (see sections 7.4 & 9.6)

5.11 Modifying the way a button works with text (Backspace key, Add Message to Display)

Go into **Edit mode** to enable button modifications (See section Going into Edit mode).

- Tap & hold (right click) on a button you want to modify to open the menu options.
- Choose **Edit Button.** A General Properties screen will appear.
- Tap on the **Actions** tab. The button action properties will appear.
- Tap the **Remove** button to remove the currently set action.

Now you can modify the way a button works with text by setting a new button action. Choose the **Backspace key** action from the drop-down action list. This button will delete characters from the display text. If you choose **Add Message to Display** action the button will type the message text on the display and won't speak it.

- Tap the **Add** button next to the action list to add the selected button action to the current button properties. The action will appear in the preview slot.
- Tap on the **OK** button to complete the operation.

5.12 Using buttons to modify the display (Speak, Stop, Speak last, Clear Display, Clear last word)

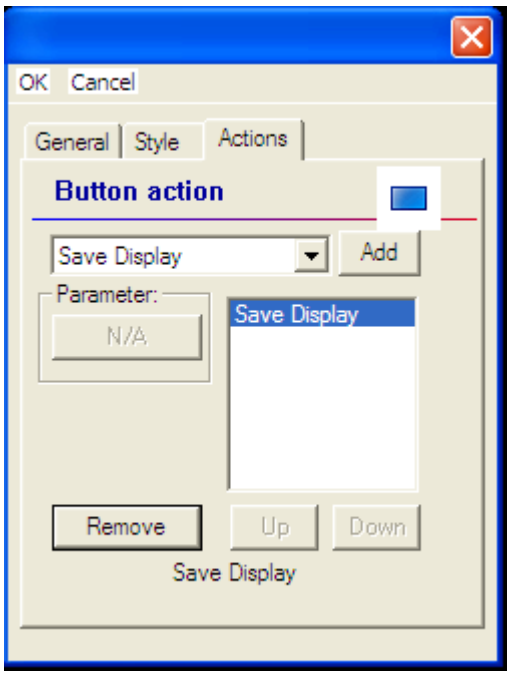
You can use buttons to control the speaking options of the SDB. You can either edit an existing button (See any modifying section above), or you can create a new button (See section 5.4) with the following button actions:

- A **Speak** button will pronounce the display content.
- A **Stop** button will cease the pronunciation of the display content.
- A **Speak last** button will pronounce the last display content.
- A **Clear Display** button will delete the display content.
- A **Clear last word** button will delete the last word displayed in the text window.

5.13 Loading and saving display text from and to a file (Load Display, Save Display)

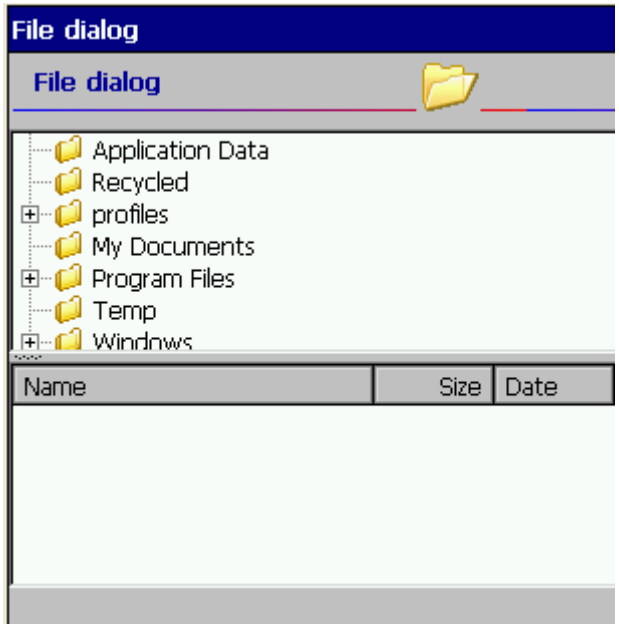
This feature is handy when you want to save the display content and use it later. Simply navigate to the Button properties window (See section 5.4).

- Tap on the **Actions** tab. Use the drop down list to select the **Save Display** action.
- Hit the **Add** button next to the actions list to set the button action.
- Finally, tap **OK**.

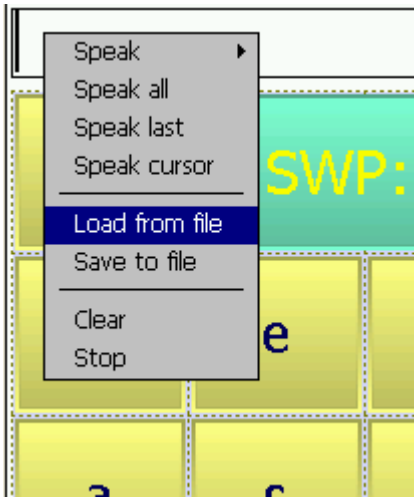


The **Save Display** button saves current display text in your storage card (in a subfolder called Logs). Simply, tap on the Save Display button and a file dialog will be displayed. You will see the default file name where the display will be saved. If you choose to change the default folder, tap on the **Change folder**…button and provide another navigation path for a saving destination. When finished, tap the **Save** button.

Perform the same steps to create a **Load Display** button. The Load Display action button can be used to load files (only in text format) in the display. A file dialog will be displayed by tapping on a Load Display button. Browse your system folders and select a text file you want to load. Hit the File menu and then tap the Choose option. You will be back on your current page and the selected text file will be loaded in the display.



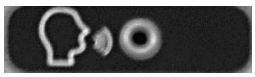
While still in Edit mode, you can load and save the display text from and to files by using the display menu options instead of using buttons as an optional way to save display text. To set up this option, go to **Edit>General Settings>Speech Display Bar** and check the **Tap and Hold** in the **Show Menu** section of the menu. Simply tap on your display and hold the stylus to call up the menu options. Then choose **Load from file** or **Save to file**.



5.14 Recording and playing audio (Play audio, Record Audio)

Play/record audio buttons allow you to record and play digital sounds on your **ALT-CHAT** device. A button that contains the action Play Audio will speak the recording when selected from a page. A button that contains the action Record Audio will now provide an opportunity for the device user, family or professional support to record a message without Exiting Full Screen Mode and without entering Edit Mode. This is often used by a teacher at the end of the day to record a message quickly to be replayed later by the family.

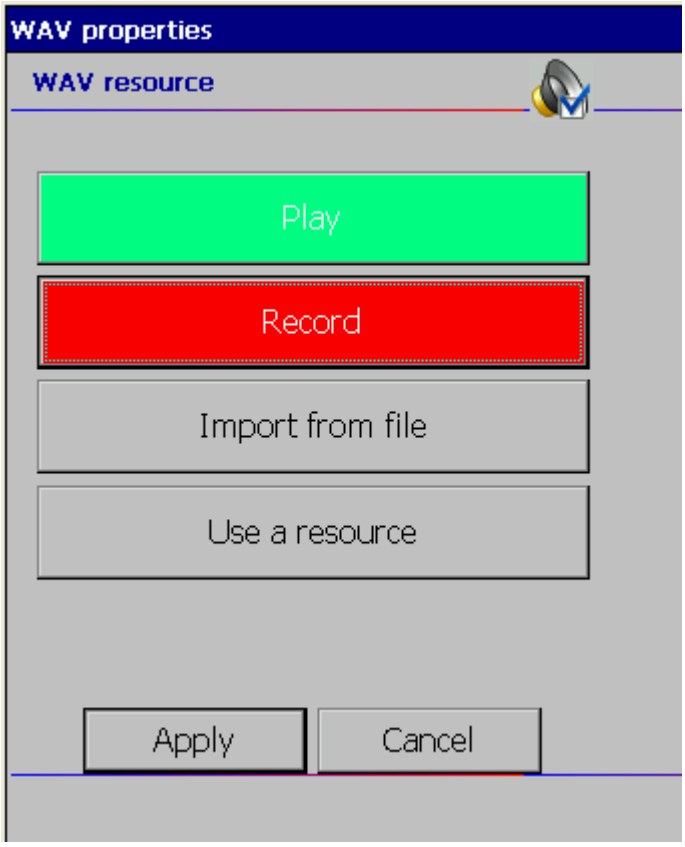
The microphone is located on the front of the **ALT-CHAT**. The voice of the individual doing the recording needs to be directed toward the Microphone. If you are unsatisfied with the recording using the built in microphone, there is a jack on the right edge of the device for plugging in a remote microphone of your choosing. There is a limit of 45 seconds per recording.



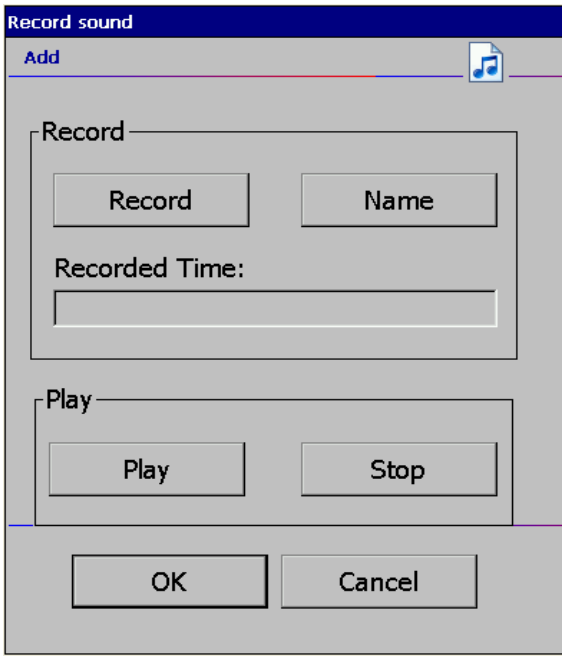
To record the best digitized speech you may want to practice a bit with different speaking volumes and distances from the microphone.

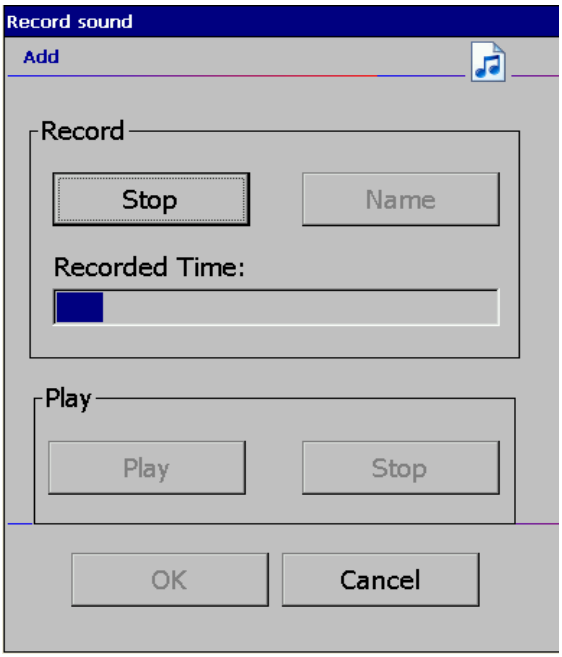
Create a **Play Audio** button:

- Navigate to the button properties window (see section 5.4).
- Tap on the **Actions** tab. Use the drop down list to select the **Play Audio** action.
- Hit the **Add** button next to the actions list. A dialog for selecting the sound file (in wav format) will pop up.



- If you want to record a new sound file, tap on the **Record** button. The Record audio dialog allows you to record digital sound files right on your **ALT-CHAT**.



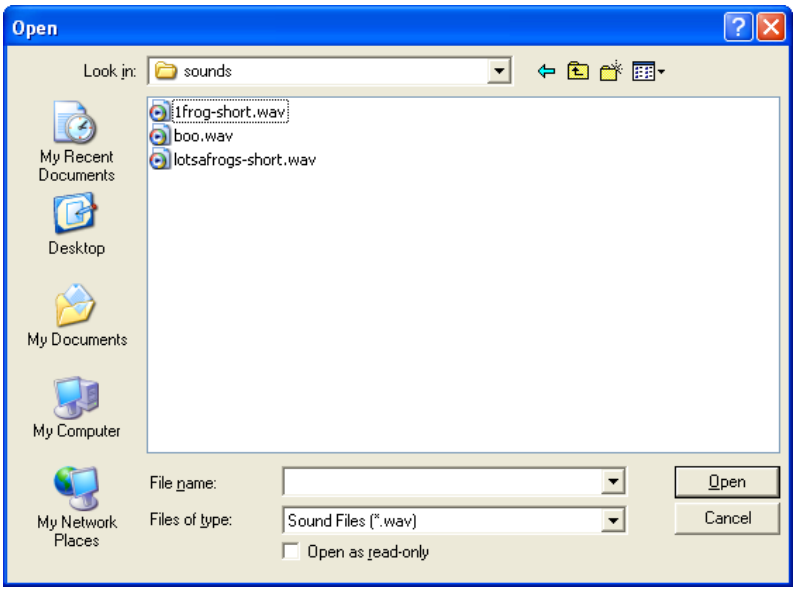


Tap on **Stop** when you're done recording. You can listen to what you've recorded by tapping on the **Play** button. To record another sound, simply tap on the **Start Recording** button. Once you're pleased with a recording tap **OK**, then tap **Apply.**

Note: The sound files that you record on the device use a large amount of memory, so you must be careful not to use up all your available memory.

Insert a Sound File:
There may be times when a sound file from the internet or some other source may need to be used. In order to do this, bring that sound to the computer with the DesktopChat[SE] running and save it.

- Tap on the **Import from fil**e button if you want to use a sound file stored in your system files. A File dialog will be displayed. Browse your folders for a sound file in wav format. Double tap on your sound file.



- Finally, hit **Apply** in the WAV properties window to select the sound that will be played with the **Play Audio** button.
- Tap **OK** on the **General Properties** window.

Record Audio:
If you are creating a Record Audio button it must be associated with a Play Audio button. For example, on the main page of a school-aged device user's vocabulary there may be a button that is titled, "from Home" and another "from school". When the device user selects the "from Home" button it will play a recording that Mom made for the teacher earlier that morning or the "from school" button may play a message that the teacher recorded at the end of the day for Mom to replay later. The easiest way to provide these recordings in a timely manner would be to have the two Play Audio buttons and two Record Audio buttons placed on pages in the device user's vocabulary file. In this example, there needs to be a Record Audio button for the teacher to use and one for Mom to use or they will be recording over each other's messages.

There must be a Play Audio button with a sound recording prior to creating the Record Audio button.

To create a Record Audio button:

- Choose the page that you want the Record Audio button to be on.
- Navigate to the button properties window (see section 5.4).
- Tap on the **Actions** tab. Use the drop down list to select the **Record Audio** action.
- Hit the **Add** button next to the actions list. A dialog for selecting the sound file (in wav format) will pop up.

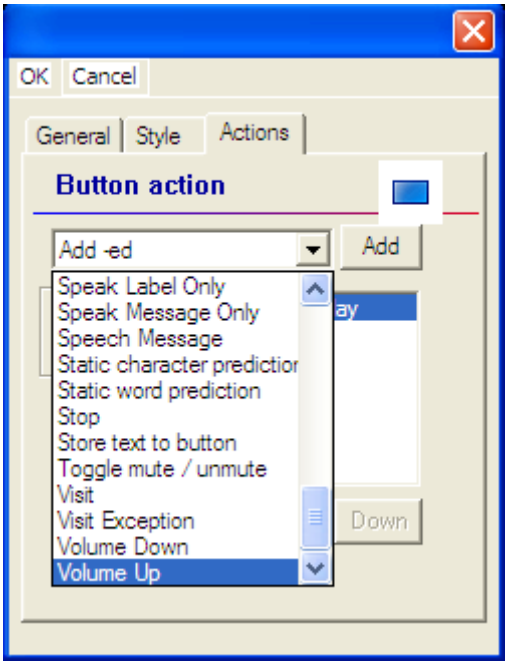
- Choose the "Use a Resource" option.
- Choose the sound file that has been created for the **Play Audio** button that will play this recording (it will be listing the "My Sounds" folder).
- Highlight the sound file and select **Choose**.
- Choose **Apply**.
- Finish creating your Recording button by adding a picture, label or both.

Test the button action by selecting the Record button and making a recording. Then move to the page with the Play Audio button and when selected it should play the new recording.

5.15 Controlling speech and audio (Volume Up, Volume Down, Toggle mute / unmute)

Volume control actions and a mute/unmute action can be added to buttons within pages. Use section 5.4 to navigate to the button properties dialog. Choose the **Actions** tab and select an action and choose Add. Brief descriptions of each type of action are provided below.

- Choose a **Volume Up** button to increase a system volume when the button is tapped.
- Choose a **Volume Down** button to decrease a system volume when the button is tapped.
- Choose a **Toggle mute / unmute** button to temporarily mute speech and unmute with second button activation.



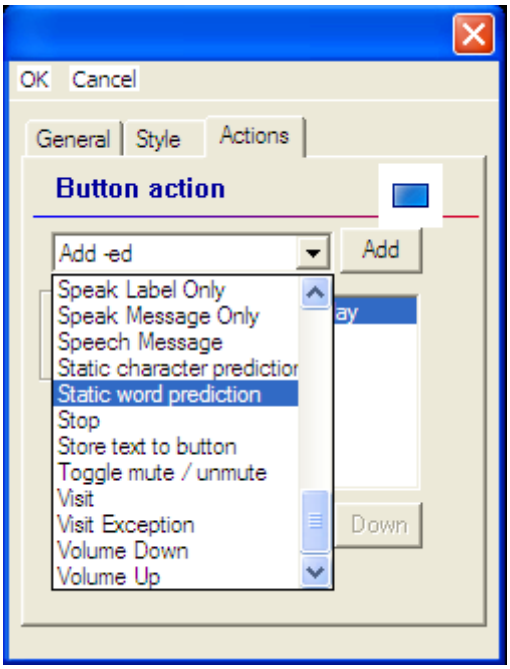
5.16 Using character and word prediction: Static Word Prediction (SWP), Static Character Prediction (SCP).

Note: Dynamic Prediction (Dynamic Word Prediction (DWP)), (Dynamic Character Prediction (DCP)), is not currently available. It will be used in future updates of this system.

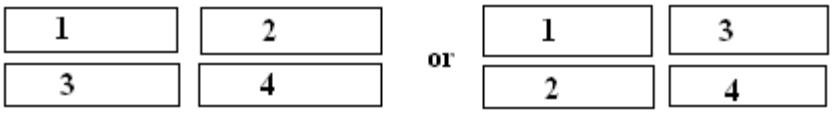
The Saltillo Word Prediction system will predict the word that is currently being spelled as well as the next word. Character Prediction will predict the next character in the word while spelling. Because of the size of the **ALT-CHAT** screen the number of buttons for words or characters available on a keyboard page is limited. So, pre-made keyboards have been included with the device that contains buttons for word prediction or character prediction. To view these, choose **View>Go To> Page** and find the keyboards used in each vocabulary file. Choose these pages and view them to determine if any of these defaults might work for the device user. If not you can modify another page or create a new keyboard from scratch. To create the Static Word Prediction or Static Character Prediction buttons:

Use section 5.4 to navigate to the button properties dialog. This dialog screen will request information about the new button. To create a "**Static Word Prediction**" button:

- Tap on the **Actions** tab.
- Choose the **Static Word Prediction** action for the button from the drop-down list. This button will display the most probable word in compliance with the current characters displayed in the SDB, the assigned selected prediction order and the static word list used by the dictionary complier (10,000, 30,000 or 60,000).



- Tap the **Add** button on the right of the drop-down list. A popup Prediction Order window will appear and a prediction order number should be specified. Prediction Order ranges from one to ten predicted words and determines in which order the words are displayed.



- Tap the **Apply** button to assign the prediction order.
- The action will be added to the preview action list.
- Tap the **Ok** button to insert the button into the page.

Note: No label and message are necessary for "SWP" and "SCP" buttons.

Perform the same steps to create a Static Character Prediction button. The **Static Character Prediction** button will display the most probable character in compliance with the current character displayed in the SDB, the assigned prediction order and the static character list used by the dictionary compiler. Character prediction is often considered for scanners as a rate enhancement tool.

5.17 Check system information by using buttons (Battery status, Add date/time to SDB)

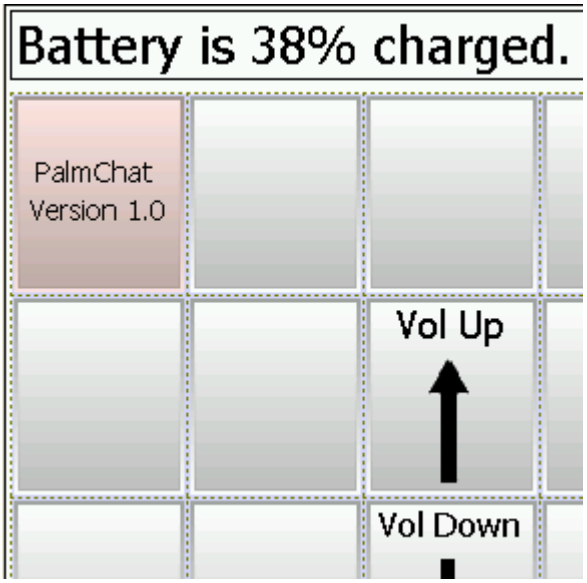
You might occasionally want to check some system information so that it's better suited to your needs. For example, you might want to check the battery status of your device. In **ALT-CHAT** you can do this easily by creating a **Battery status** button

Use section 5.4 to navigate to the button properties dialog. This dialog screen will request information about the new button.

To create a **Battery status** button:

- Tap on the **Actions** tab. Use the drop down list to select the **Battery status** action.
- Hit the **Add** button next to the actions list.
- Tap **OK** on the button properties window.

The **Battery status** button will display the current battery status in the SDB.
Perform the same steps to create an **Add date/time to SDB** button. The **Add date/time to SDB** button will display the current date and time in the SDB.

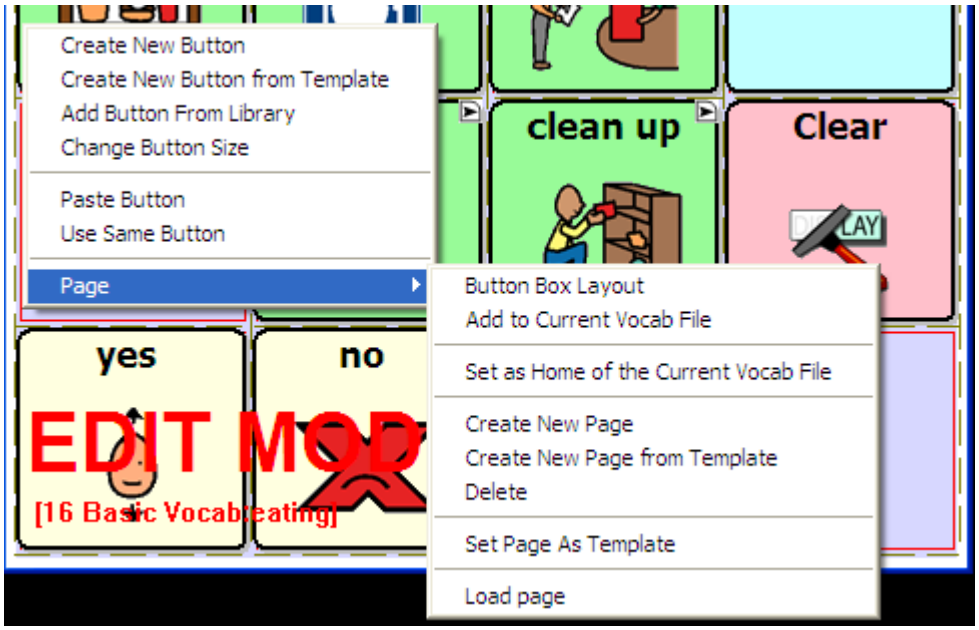


5.18 Load/open a page

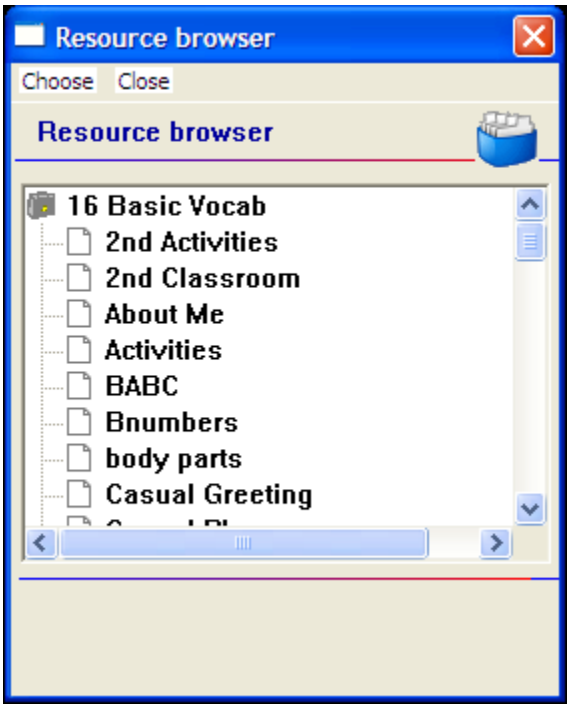
ALT-CHAT provides two ways for loading/opening pages. They are handy when you would like to edit page properties.

5.18.1 Using the context menu option

- Activate the **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on your currently opened page and right click (push & hold) to call up the menu options.



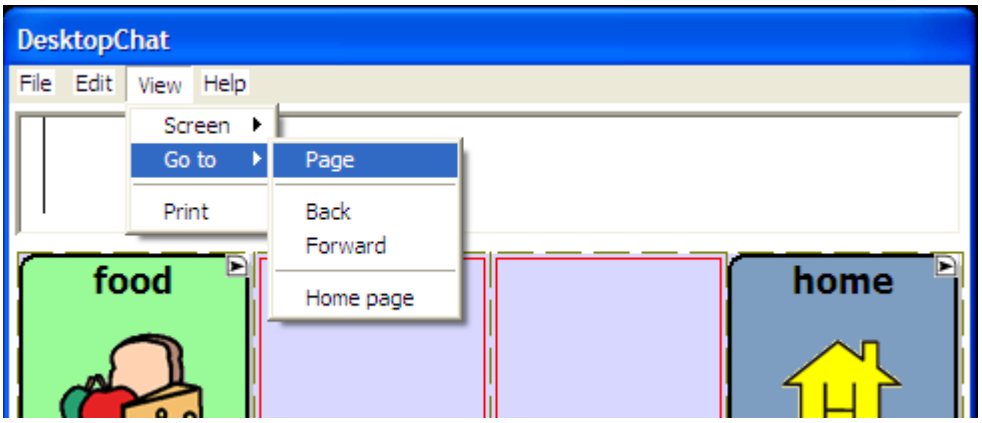
- Choose **Page >Load page**. A resource browser window will open to a folder containing all the pages in the currently open vocabulary file.
- Select a page and tap the **Choose** button.



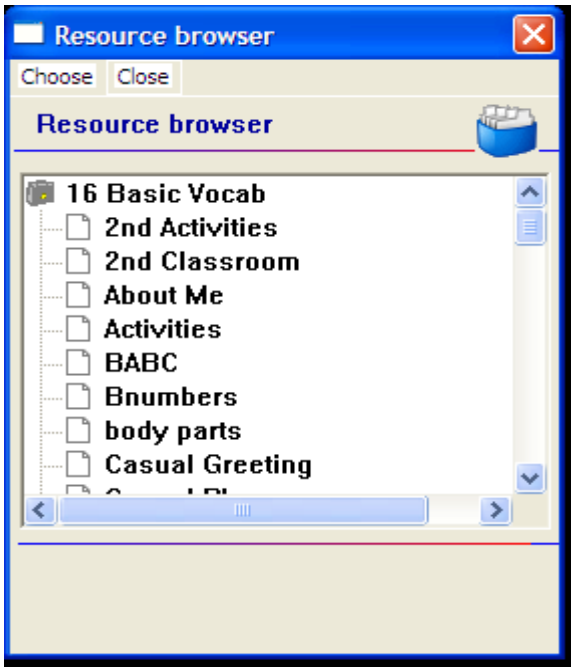
- **ALT-CHAT** will display the selected page.

5.18.2 Open a page in Run mode

- Tap on the **View** menu.



- Choose **Go to >Page.** The popup resource browser lists the pages from the currently open vocabulary file.



- Select a page you want to open and tap the **Choose** button.
- **ALT-CHAT** will display the selected page.

5.19 Navigating through pages using buttons (Navigate, Visit, Navigate back, Navigate to home)

There are times that a new vocabulary page needs added to an existing vocabulary file. In order to access the new page a button must be created to Link to that new page. Assigning a Navigate or Visit action to the button will link the new page to your existing pages.

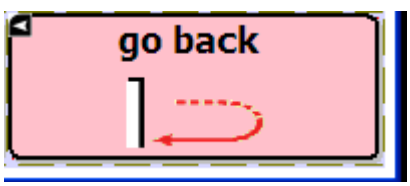
Use section 5.3 to create another new page. While you are still in **Edit mode** you can link the two pages by using navigation buttons.

- Tap anywhere on the new page and hold the stylus (right click) to call up the menu options.
- Choose the **Create New Button** option (a pop-up window will present the button's properties).
- Select the **Actions tab** in the Button properties window.
- Select a navigation action for the button from the drop-down list.

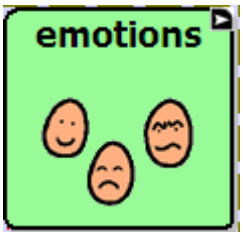
For example, a **Visit** action is similar to a **Navigate** action, but means "go to the indicated page, but come back to the current page after you've selected a button on that page." The **Visit** action is used to set up temporary pages that behave like pop-up pages.

A button with a **Navigate** or **Visit** action is represented visually with a small right-pointing arrow in the upper or lower right-hand corner (depending on where the button label is). A **Visit** button has a white arrow on a black background to differentiate it from a **Navigate** button that has a black arrow on a white background.

Navigate



Navigate Back



Visit

Besides Visit and Navigate actions, there are some special entries: **Navigate to home** & **Navigate back.** The **Navigate home** command tells **ALT-CHAT** to return to the very first page in the vocabulary file - the home page (See Setting a Home page). The **Navigate back** command tells the system to return to the page that you were on previously.

- Tap the **Add** button next to the actions drop down list. When a button **Action** is set to **Navigate** or **Visit**, use the pop-up **Pages** list to determine the page to which a button tap will transport.
- Finally, tap the **OK** button in the properties window to add the navigation button to the current page.

5.20 Using an existing button in multiple places within a Vocabulary file.

Once created, a button can be used in multiple pages at the same time. All buttons are listed in your library and you can refer any of these buttons in multiple places.

- Start by going into **Edit mode** (choose Edit Menu and check Edit Mode).
- Tap on your currently opened page and right click (push & hold) to call up the menu options.
- Select the **Add Button From Library** option. A resource browser window will list all buttons in the library.
- Select a button and tap on the **Choose** button. The selected button will be added to the page.

5.21 Copying - Pasting, buttons

ALT-CHAT provides several ways to create a button by using an existing button.

5.21.1 Copy/Paste buttons

ALT-CHAT has popup menus to help you with editing. In **Edit mode**, simply right click (DesktopChat) or tap on a button and hold the stylus (de vice) against the screen without moving. After about a second, you'll see the popup menu. Remember not to move the stylus or you'll start a "drag-and-drop" operation.
Once the popup menu is open, select **Copy Button** to copy the contents of the current button into a clipboard. Once you've copied a button, you can move to another button or to another page and select **Paste Button**. As you'd expect, the contents of the button (general properties, style, actions) you copied will appear. Be careful – there's no way to undo a paste operation.

5.21.2 Copy/ Use Same Button

When using the Copy/Paste function a copy of the original button is made. When using Copy/Use Same Button the same button is used in both places. This feature allows for the same button to be used on multiple pages and changing one of the buttons changes them all.

5.21.3 Button Templates

No Button Templates have been provided. But a button template can be created and used over and over. Create a button and do the following to set it as a template:
Right click (push & hold) on the button
Choose **Set Button As Template**
To reuse the button
Right click (push & hold) on the location to place the copy of button template
Choose **Create Button from Template**
both the original and the reference.

5.22 Copying and pasting button style

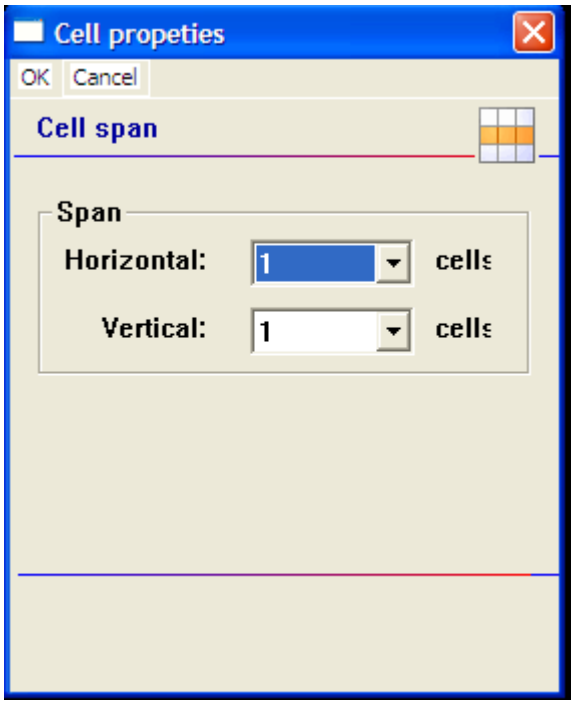
If you don't want to copy the graphics or text of a button, but just want to copy its appearance (body color, border color, font color, and font – the features you can set on the **Style** tab of the **Button Properties Dialog**), you can use the **Copy Button Style** option.

- In **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode) tap on a button and hold the stylus (or your finger) against the screen without moving. After about a second, you'll see the popup menu.
- Select **Copy Button Style**. The style of the current button will be copied into a clipboard.
- Move to another button and open the popup menu and select **Paste Button Style**.
- As you'd expect, the style of the button (body color, border color, font color, ect.) you copied will apply to the target button.

5.23 Changing the size of a button

If you want to change the size of a button, go into **Edit mode** to enable button modifications (See section Going into Edit mode). Now you can change the button size by:

- Tapping on the desired button and hold the stylus to open the context menu options.
- Choosing the **Change Button Size** option (a pop-up window will display the button Cell properties).



- Use the **Cell Span** dialog to change the size of the button. The horizontal and vertical span sizes of the selected cell are in compliance with the button box size.
- Finally, tap the **OK** button in the bottom–left corner of the screen. The button cell is spanned to fit the new size.

5.24 Moving through pages

ALT-CHAT provides multiple ways for moving through pages:

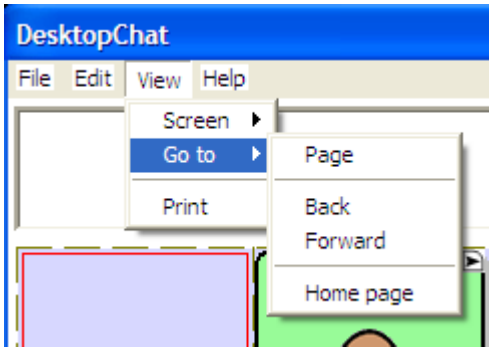
- By using navigation buttons (See section Navigating through pages using buttons):

Icons

- By using the tool bar options. The left arrow button of the toolbar allows you to return to the page that you were on previously. The right arrow button forwards you to the next page. The House navigates you to the home page of the vocabulary file.

Menus

- Choose the **Go To** option from the **View** menu. You can then select among:



  - **Page** – a pop-up page browser will open and you can choose a page from the Pages list to determine the page to which a **Choose** button will transport you. This listing has all pages in **ALT-CHAT** listing alphabetical order.
  - **Back** – navigates you to the previously used page.
  - **Forward** – forwards you to the next page of the current vocabulary file.
  - **Home page** – navigates you to the home page of the current vocabulary file.
- **Push and hold anywhere on the page,** Choose **Page,** then Choose **Load Page**. This listing includes all the pages in your vocabulary file. Select the page you wish to load and tap Choose.

5.25 Creating a Visual Scene or Background Picture on a Page

Visual Scenes are becoming an alternative way to display vocabulary on a page. Some are finding benefits to having a background picture on a page. Saltillo has provided a way to provide a background picture creating a visual scene. To do this:

- Choose to **create a new page**
- With the new page open, choose **Edit>Modify Vocab>Edit>Page**
- Choose the **Page style** tab
- In the Background Image area choose to **Import** a picture not already in the library or **Browse** to search through the existing icons. You must be using DesktopChat[SE] to import a background image that is not a Saltillo provided icon.
- Choose to either Center the picture or to stretch the picture to fill as much of the page as possible.

Once you have a background picture on your page, you will need to create the buttons that will speak when selected.

- Right click on the area to add a message.
- Choose **Create New Button**.
- Insert a label and message.
- Go to the **Style** tab and check the transparent option to remove the background color of the button to see the page background icon through the typical button area.

5.26 Duplicating a page

This feature is handy when building symbol configurations where you would like the same buttons to be displayed on every page. Create a page with the buttons that will be on every page, and duplicate that page as many times as you would like. Then go back to each page and fill in the remaining buttons.
Instead of creating a blank page you can create a copy of the current page by using a **Duplicate Page** option. Start with activating the **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).

- Open the page you want to duplicate.
- Tap the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary >Create**>**Duplicate Page.**
- Type in a new name for the Page and choose **Save**.

The duplicated page will be added to the library resource list under this name.

5.27 Creating page from template

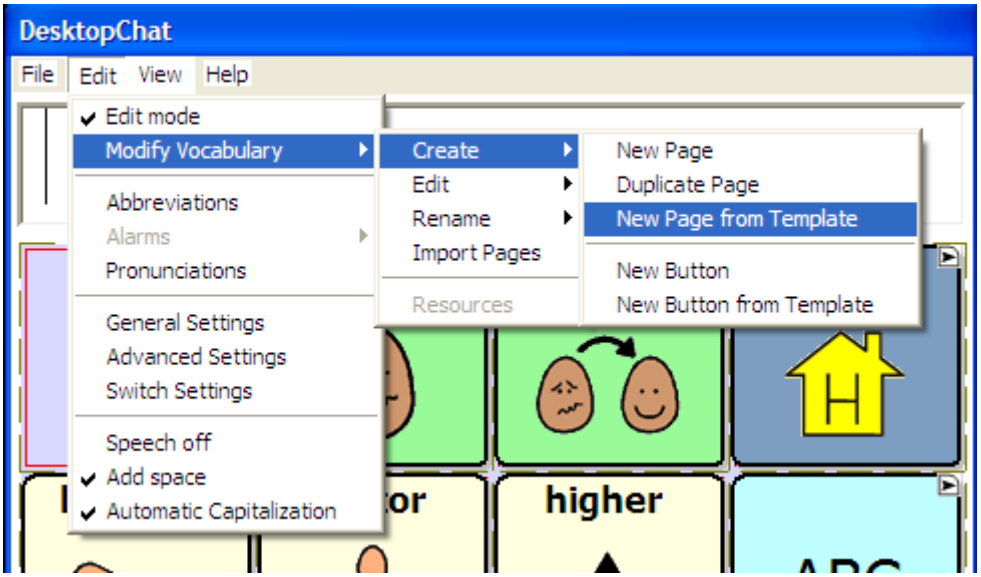
Saltillo has provided some keyboard page templates available in your library, you can create a new page using a one of these templates or you can create templates of your own to use.

To create a template:

- Create page to use as a template (this may contain just the common buttons wanted on each page)
- Right click on the page (push and hold if using the device).
- Choose **Page.**
- Choose **Set Page As Template.**

ALT-CHAT provides two similar ways to create a page from templates.

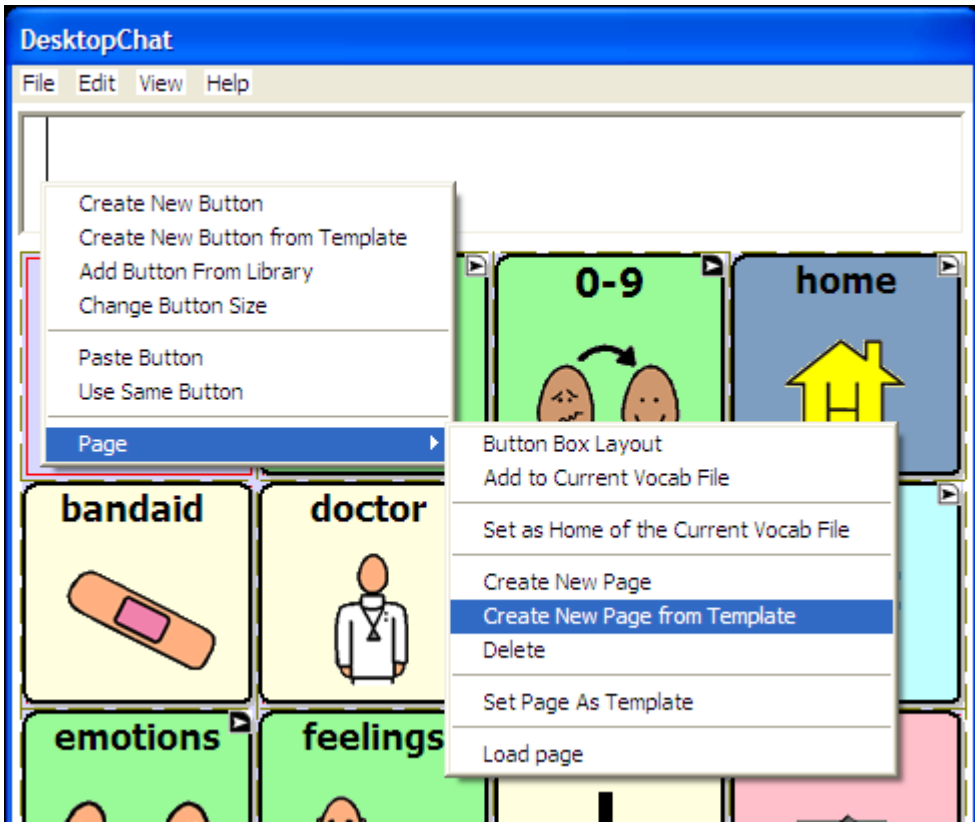
- In **Edit mode**, simply tap on the **Edit** menu.



- Choose **Modify Vocabulary >Create >New Page from Template**. After about a second, you'll see the popup resource browser with the currently available page templates.
- Select a page template and tap the **Choose** button.

Or

- In **Edit mode**, tap on your current page and right click or hold the stylus (device) against the screen without moving. The popup menu will appear.



- Select **Page >Create New Page from Template.**
- A Resource browser will list the available page templates. Select a page template and tap the **Choose** button.

Both operations will return you to edit mode on the new page. In addition, the new page will be added to the library resource list as a copy of the template.

5.28 Importing a page to a Vocabulary file

There are times that borrowing already created pages could be a time saver and quite advantageous for the device user's vocabulary file. To bring pages from one vocabulary file to another:

- Start with going into **Edit Mode** (See section Going into Edit mode 5.2)
- Select **Edit**>**Modify Vocabulary**>**Import Pages.** A list of the vocabulary files will appear. Open the folder where the pages are stored. Select the page or pages you wish to import, then tap Choose.

5.29 Setting a home page of a Vocabulary file

The Home page is the very first page of each vocabulary file. When you load a vocabulary file its Home page will be presented to you. If a vocabulary file has no home page set the **ALT-CHAT** will display the message: '*This Vocabulary file (file name) has no home page set. Empty screen will be displayed.*'

To set **Home page,** perform the following steps:

- Go into **Edit Mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Choose the page that you want as the Home Page and have it showing on the screen.
- Tap on the current page and hold the stylus to call up the page menu options.
- Select the **Page** option and choose **Set as Home of the current Vocab file**.
    - Use **Set as Home of the current Vocab file** option to set the current page as home page of the current vocabulary file

5.30 Editing page properties

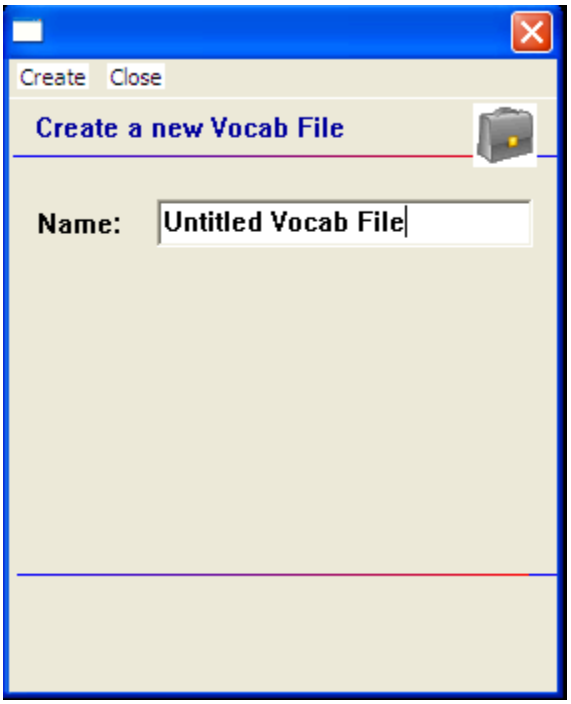
Once you create a page you can always edit its properties:

- Go into **Edit mode** to enable modifications (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary >Edit >Page** to open the page properties window. Now you can edit the **Button style** and the **Page style** properties of the selected page (See section Modifying Button's style).

5.31 Creating new Vocabulary file

In addition to modifying existing vocabulary files, you can create new vocabulary files.

- Select the **File** menu, then **Vocab File** then **New Vocab File**. A pop-up window asks you to select Continue or Cancel. Select Continue and a pop-up window asks you to name the new vocabulary file, otherwise, by default, the new vocabulary file will be named Untitled Vocabulary File.



- Enter a more descriptive name in the **Name** box.
- Tap the **Create** button.

The new vocabulary file will be added to your library.

5.32 Save a Vocabulary file as …

After exploring Saltillo's vocabulary files, it is necessary to save the file with a new name in order to Edit it.

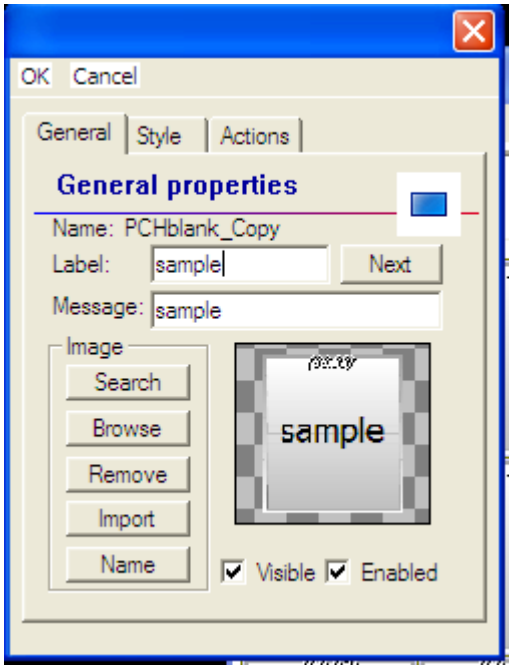
- Tap on the **File** menu.
- Choose **VocabFile.**
- Choose the **Save Vocab File As** option.
- A Rename dialog will appear.
- Type the name of the new vocabulary file in the text box.
- Tap the **Save** button.

The selected vocabulary file will be saved under the name you provided.

5.33 Editing Vocabulary file properties

Once you create a vocabulary file you can always edit its properties:

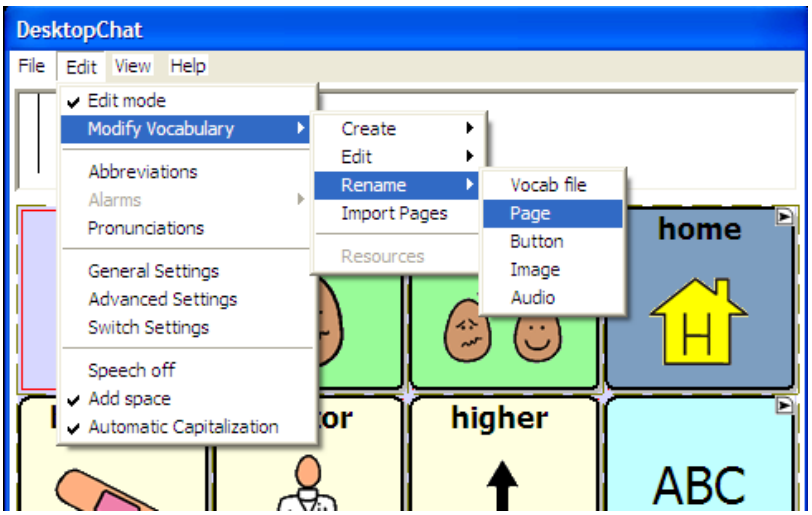
- Go into **Edit mode** to enable modifications (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on the **Edit** menu
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary >Edit >Vocab file** to evoke the vocabulary file properties window. Now you can edit the **Button style** and the **Page style** properties of the selected vocabulary file (See section Modifying Button's style).



5.34 Renaming a resource (vocab file, page, button, etc.)

Renaming a Vocabulary File or Page:

- Open the vocabulary file or page needing renamed. The machine assumes you are renaming the currently open Vocab File or Page.
- Activate the **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary>Rename>Vocab File** or **Page**.



- Enter the new name in the text box by using the keyboard of your **ALT-CHAT**.
- Tap on the **Save** button to finish the operation.

Renaming a Button, Picture or Sound:

- Activate the **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **Modify Vocabulary >Rename.** Choose a resource.
- Select a resource to rename by browsing through the listing of folders
- Tap on the **Choose** button. A Rename dialog will pop up and request the new resource name.
- Enter the new name in the text box by using the keyboard of your **ALT-CHAT**.
- Tap on the **Rename** button to finish the operation.

The resource name will be changed only in the resource library list.

5.35 Deleting a resource (vocab file, page, button, etc.)

You can delete buttons and pages through the context menu options.
To delete a button through the context menu options:

- Activate the **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on a button and hold the stylus to call up the button menu options.
- Now you can choose between:
    - **Remove Button From Page** option – removes the selected button from the page. You can still find this button in your resource library list and use it.
    - **Delete Button Permanently** option – removes the selected button both from the page where used and from your resource library list. The button is no longer available.

Either of these options will call up a deletion warning message.

Delete a page through the context menu options:

- Activate the **Edit mode** (See section Going into Edit mode).
- Tap on a page and hold the stylus to evoke the context menu options.
- Choose **Page >Delete.** A deletion warning message will appear. After confirmation the page will be deleted from the vocabulary file. However, the page will stay in the library resource list and can be used again.

To delete a vocabulary file: (this process can take up to an hour to complete and requires a battery charger to plugged in through out the entire process)

Choose **File>Vocab File>Delete Vocab File** and follow the on-screen instructions.

5.36 Combining button actions

ALT-CHAT now provides the option to combine multiple button actions to a specific button. You might, for example, set up a button to Clear the Display, then speak "Would you like some", and combine it with a navigation action that will send the system to a page with beverage items.

- Tap on a Speak Message button and hold the stylus to open the button menu options.
- Choose the **Edit Button** option (a pop-up window will display the current button properties).
- Type your message (i.e. "Would you like some" in the message box).
- Select the **Actions tab** in the Button properties window.
- Use the drop-down list to select the action. Choose **Clear Display** and select **Add**.
- Use the drop-down list to select the action. If you set this action to **Navigate** or **Visit**, you can then set the destination page using the pop-up **Pages** list. In our beverage example, we might have preferred to use a **Visit** action rather than **Navigate** – after selecting the beverage item we'd be sent back to the page we started on (the page with the "Would you like some" button).
- Tap **OK** in the bottom-left corner of the button properties window

Other combinations of actions may eliminate the amount of hits a device user needs to use and other combinations could eliminate some cognitive load required when navigating through the vocabulary pages.

6. Library Management and Backup

- Export/Import to **ALT-CHAT** if using DesktopChat[SE]
- Backing Up Your Vocabulary Files

6.1 Export/Import to ALT-CHAT if using DesktopChat[SE]

The DesktopChat[SE] allows you to create and modify vocabulary files on your Windows PC. To exchange vocabulary files and other important information between your DesktopChat[SE] and your **ALT-CHAT** device you will need the USB thumb drive that came with your system.

To Export a Vocabulary File from your PC to your ALT-CHAT device:

- Choose DesktopChat[SE] shortcut and open the program.
- Connect the USB thumb drive to your computer.
- Go to the **File** Menu on the DesktopChat[SE] and choose **Export**.
- Choose to save the vocabulary to the USB drive.
- Choose a PC vocabulary file you want to export from the drop down list. (The vocabulary file you selected will be highlighted.)
- Then click the **Export** button (All of the vocabulary files' components, including custom images and sound files, will be exported to the **ALT-CHAT** device). This may take some time.
- When finished remove the USB drive from the computer and attach to the device.
- Within 90 seconds the **ALT-CHAT** will start receiving the file. You will see a progress bar on the screen.
- When finished, choose **File>Vocab File>Load Vocab File**.

Depending upon the size of the vocabulary file and number of custom images and sounds it uses, the import can take just a few seconds, or it can take several minutes. When the import is complete, the exported vocabulary file will appear in the **ALT-CHAT** under the **File > Load Vocab Files** list on the device.

You can use the DesktopChat[SE] to modify vocabulary files created on your **ALT-CHAT** device but there are times that changes need to be made directly to the device. If this happens, prior to making additional changes to your vocabulary file on DesktopChat[SE] transfer the vocabulary files from your **ALT-CHAT** to your PC.

To Export a Vocabulary File from ALT-CHAT device to your PC:

- Connect the USB thumb drive to the right side of the device.
- Go to the **File** Menu on the **ALT-CHAT** device.
- Go to **Export**.
- Choose a vocabulary file you want to export from a drop down list. (The vocabulary file you selected will be highlighted.)
- Then click the **Export** button (All of the vocabulary files' components, including custom images and sound files, will be exported to the thumb drive.
- When finished unplug the thumb drive from the device and plug it into your computer.
- Within 90 seconds the DesktopChat[SE] will start receiving the file.
- When finished, choose **File>Vocab File>Load Vocab File**.

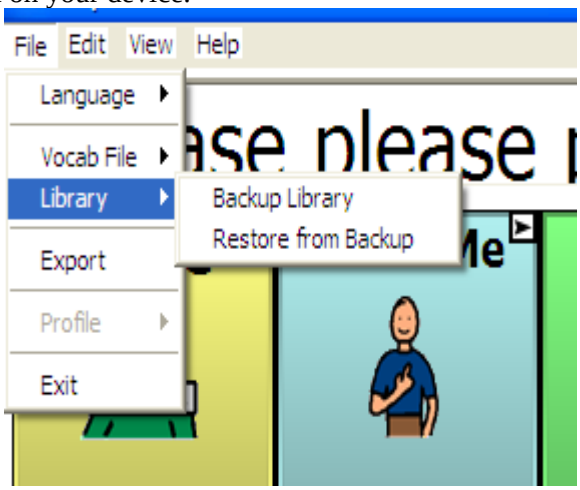
The exported vocabulary files will be imported into your DesktopChat[SE].

Important Note: Although we have tried to make **ALT-CHAT** as reliable as possible there is always a possibility that your customized vocabulary files could be lost. **Please, always keep a copy of your vocabulary on your DesktopChat[SE].**

6.2 Backing up your library

ALT-CHAT provides a means to keep a back-up of the systems library on the device itself. It is recommended that you always keep a back up on a separate computer in addition to this backup.

Once you've made changes to your library, choose **File > Library > Backup Library**. This put a copy of the library on the storage card on your device.



6.3 Restore from Backup

If for any reason your library is mistakenly erased or corrupted, if a backup had been made, it can be restored from the devices storage card. This will clear the current library and replace it with the last one backed up. To do this:

- Choose **File**.
- Choose **Library.**
- Choose **Restore from Backup.**

6.4 Revert to Factory Default

If the **ALT-CHAT** belongs to a facility that loans the system to multiple clients there is the need to reset the system back to factory defaults between clients. Saltillo has provided a way to replace the entire library back to the factory default with a menu setting. To replace the custom library with the default library:

- Copy any vocabulary files that need saved to the PC.
- Choose **Advanced Settings** from the **Edit** menu.
- Choose the **Library** tab.
- Choose **Revert to Factory Default.**
    - Confirm that you really want to replace the existing library with Saltillo's default.

6.5 Printing Vocabulary Pages

Printing vocabulary pages can be a great way to create a manual board. Manual boards are recommended as a back up to the **ALT-CHAT** device. Printing of pages is only available from the DesktopChat^{SE} software.

To print vocabulary pages:

- Open Desktop Chat^{SE}
- Open the page that you would like to print.
- Choose the **View** Menu.
- Choose **Print.**

To change the size of the printed pages:

- Choose the **View** Menu.
- Choose **Screen**.
- Choose a more appropriate size.

7. Useful Options on the ALT-CHAT

- Button Options on the **ALT-CHAT**
- Touchscreen Settings
- Speech Options on the **ALT-CHAT**
- System Settings

7.1 Button Action Options on the ALT-CHAT

ALT-CHAT allows you to create and use a rich variety of different button actions. The table below lists all button actions with the corresponding description:

Button name	Description
Add –s, add –ed, add –er, add –est, add –ing, add –en	Changes the existing word to the chosen grammatical form
Add Message to Display	Puts text from buttons Message box into the display but isn't spoken
Add date/time to Display	Displays the current date and time in the SDB.
Battery Status	Displays the current battery status in the SDB.
Backspace key	Deletes the last character in the Display.
Cancel Visit	Clears all remaining visits
Caps modifier	Caps modifier activates the Caps Lock modifier field in the Button Sets.
Clear Display	Clears the text in the Speech Display Bar (SDB).
Clear Last Word	Deletes the last word in the SDB content.
Ctrl modifier	Control modifier activates the Control modifier field in the Button Sets.
Dynamic Word Prediction (DWP)	(Not available at this time)Displays the most probable word in compliance with the current characters displayed in the SDB, the assigned prediction order and the dynamic word list used by the dictionary complier. The Prediction Style and the Prediction Order can be adjusted additionally (See Button tab features.)
Dynamic Character Prediction (DCP)	(Not available at this time)Displays the most probable character in compliance with the current character displayed in the SDB, the assigned prediction order and the dynamic character list used by the dictionary complier. The Prediction Style and the Prediction Order can be adjusted additionally (See Button tab features.)
Load Display	Recalls text that had been saved to a text file and adds it to the Display
Navigate	Forwards to a previously predefined page
Navigate back	Forwards to the previously used page.
Navigate to home	Forwards to the very first page of the current CM (the *home* page).
No operation	Performs no operation
Num modifier	Num modifier activates the Num Lock modifier field in the Button Sets.
Open PPC Application	Opens the specified Microsoft Application i.e. Word viewer, Solitaire (Not

Button name	Description
	available with **ALT-CHAT** D+ model).
Play audio	Plays audio files. These are recordings of someone speaking or sounds.
Record Audio	Records audio files. These are recordings of someone speaking or sounds.
Repeat Last Spoken	Repeats the last spoken message
Save Display	Saves the text currently showing on the Display to a text file.
Shift modifier	Shift modifier activates the Shift modifier field in the Button Sets.
Speak	Pronounces the SDB (Speech **Display** Bar) content.
Speak Last	Repeats the last spoken text
Speak Label Only	Speaks the Label
Speak Message Only	Speaks the Message, doesn't display the text
Speech message	Types the button message in the SDB and pronounces it.
Static Character Prediction (SCP)	Displays the most probable character in compliance with the current character displayed in the SDB, the assigned prediction order and the static character list used by the dictionary complier. The Prediction Style and the Prediction Order can be adjusted additionally (See Button tab features, Library Editor User's Manual).
Static Word Prediction (SWP)	Displays the most probable word in compliance with the current characters displayed in the SDB, the assigned selected prediction order and the static word list used by the dictionary complier (up to 60000 words). The Prediction Style and the Prediction Order can be adjusted additionally (See Button tab features, Library Editor User's Manual).
Stop	Ceases the pronunciation of the Display content.
Store text to button	
Toggle mute / unmute	If the device is currently speaking a long message, selecting this button will not stop the speech but stop the speech from being spoken aloud. Selecting the same button again lets the text be heard.
Visit	Forwards temporarily to a previously predefined page. Such button activates different operational mode – visit mode. The Visit mode records the pages and their sequence of loading. Termination of the Visit mode is caused by activation of a different type of button and returns the user to the initial page.
Visit Exception	If you have one button on a Visit Page that you don't want to return to previous page use a Visit Exception action to leave it on the page for one additional hit.
Volume down	Turns down the volume.
Volume up	Turns up the volume.

NOTE: Modifier buttons are used to activate buttons, assigned to the button sets.

7.2 Touchscreen Settings

Filtering is an adjusting of the touch screen settings. To control the touch screen input navigate to:

- Tap the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **General Settings** (a pop-up screen will present the **Timing**, **Style**, **SDB**, **Speech** and the **Voice** settings).
- Tap on the **Timing** tab.
- Check the **Acceptance time** and the **Release Time** to enable any further adjustments
- Set the minimum time that a key must be depressed before it registers - the **Acceptance time**. The default delay time is 0.3 seconds. By using the drop-down lists next to the Acceptance time check box you can change the delays in increments of 0.1 seconds (100 milliseconds) up to 3.0s.
- Set the minimum time that a key must be released before it activates – the **Released time.** The default delay time is 0.3 seconds. By using the drop-down lists next to the Acceptance time check box you can change the delays in increments of 0.1 seconds (100 milliseconds) up to 3.0s.
- Check the **Activate on Release** option if you want to activate the button's action by releasing the button.

7.3 Display Option on the ALT-CHAT

7.3.1 Full Screen

If you find that the menus and toolbar are taking up too much screen space you can hide them either by selecting **View** menu >**Screen** >**Full Screen** menu item or by pressing the **Tools** button on the front of the device. To bring the menus and toolbar back just press the **Tools** button again.
You also have the option to specify a Full Screen password if you wish to protect the user from exiting full screen mode. This password will be required to exit the full screen mode.

To set a password:

- Select **Edit<Advanced settings** then tap the **Full Screen** tab.
- Check the **Password-protect Full Screen Mode** box then tap the **set password** button.
- Enter and re-type your password in the appropriate text boxes.
- Tap the **OK** button, then tap **OK** in the upper right corner.

If no password is entered the protection is turned off.

In the case of a password being entered that can't be remembered, Saltillo has provided a default password of **BOSCO.** Use this to exit full screen when the original password can not be found.

In **Normal** mode you will see the Display on top and the Menu/Tool bar on bottom.

By default, the **ALT-CHAT** device is set to **Normal** screen mode. This mode displays the Display bar and the Menu bar.

7.3.2 Microsoft Applications Access

ALT-CHAT is based on Microsoft's software. One of the many benefits this provides is the ability to use Microsoft's applications on the device. Some standard Microsoft applications that come loaded on your device include Microsoft WordViewer, Microsoft Excel Viewer, and Solitaire. Some individuals will not be able to navigate the Microsoft software. Others will be able to use the **ALT-CHAT** software as well as the Microsoft functionality of the device.

To give access to the Microsoft software a button must be modified to open the specified application. To do this:

- Edit or Create a new button.
- Choose the **Action** tab.
- Choose the **Open PPC application** action and **add** it to the button.

- Choose the appropriate Windows application.
- Add a label or icon to the button and choose **OK.**

Note: ALT-CHAT-D+ has had the access to the PocketPC software removed. This is in order to meet Medicare/Medicaid specifications of a dedicated speech device.

7.3.3 Style

By using the Style controls you can adjust the image appearance on buttons and the button modifiers (shape and size).

- Navigate to the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **General Settings** (a pop-up screen will present the **Timing**, **Style**, **SDB**, **Speech** and the **Voice** settings).
- Tap on the **Style** tab.
- Check **Use entire button area** box if you want the image to be displayed on the entire button.
- You can choose between round and rectangular button shapes.
- Adjust the button size by choosing from 1 to 5 points.
- When ready, tap the **OK** button.

7.3.4 Speech Display Bar

If you want to adjust the SDB properties (Font, Letter size, Background color, Text color, etc.), navigate to:

- The **Edit** menu.
- Choose **General Settings.**
- Tap on the **Speech Display Bar** tab.
- Use the preview box to sample your changes.

7.4 Speech Options

ALT-CHAT supports speech synthesis through the NeoSpeech Software. You can use the synthesizer to speak individual characters, words, or sentences. The **Speech** menu is accessed by:

- Selecting the **View** menu.
- Choosing **General Settings.**
- Tapping on the **Speech** tab.
- Checking the **Character** box if you want the Voice to pronounce individual characters as they are selected.
- Checking the **Word** box if you want the Voice to pronounce words as they are selected.
- Checking the **Sentence** box if you want the Voice to pronounce sentences as they are selected.
- Tapping the **OK** button.

7.4.1 Voice options

ALT-CHAT uses the Voice menu tab in General Settings to adjust the voice options. Neospeech has 2 voice options.

Adjust the voice speed by entering a number in the **Speed** box (words per minutes).
Tap the **Test Voice settings** button to hear a preview-sample of the voice that is selected to help you to decide which voice to use. The sample says, "I love my **ALT-CHAT**!"
Use the voice controls to adjust the tones:

- **Low** –makes voices thick and harsh.
- **High** – makes voices thin and high.
- **Soft/Loud** –adjusts the volume loudness of the synthetic speech.

7.4.2 Pronunciation Editor

To change the way a word is pronounced by the speech synthesizer, select **Edit** >**Pronunciations**, and the **Pronunciations** dialog will be displayed.

ALT-CHAT uses Neospeech speech synthesis to provide you with your voice. The program knows how to pronounce most words, but you'll occasionally find words that are mispronounced. To modify pronunciation of these words, you can use the Pronunciation editor, which stores information on their correct pronunciations in a pronunciation list. You can create, edit and delete the word pronunciation list using the **Pronunciation Editor**. To access the **Pronunciation Editor:**

- Tap on the **Edit** menu
- Choose **Pronunciations**

To create a new pronunciation for a word, tap the **New** button. A new pop-up dialog will appear. Tapping the **Pronounce** slot will trigger the keyboard. Use the keyboard to type the word for which you want to specify a new pronunciation in the slot labeled **Pronounce**. The word cannot contain any spaces or punctuation other than hyphens or apostrophes. Then spell out the pronunciation in the slot labeled **Pronounce As** (i.e. enter **ALT-CHAT** in the **Pronounce** box and enter Chat P C in the **Pronounce As** box). Adding spaces between the word chat and the letter P and the letter C corrects the pronunciation or you could enter ChatPeeSee in the **Pronounce As** box.

Once you're ready, tap the **OK** button. The new word and its pronunciation will appear in the list. If you want to change the pronunciation, you can edit it using the **Edit** button.

To edit the pronunciation of a word already in the pronunciation list, tap on it to select it in the pronunciation list then tap the **Edit** button. The same popup dialog used for entering a new pronunciation will appear, with the **Pronounce** and **Pronounce As** fields already filled in. You will be able to change both the **Pronounce** and **Pronounce As**. When you are done editing the pronunciation, tap the **OK** Button. The modified pronunciation will appear in the pronunciation list.

You can remove an entry from the pronunciation list by first selecting the word from the pronunciation list, then tapping on the **Delete** button. This pronunciation exception will be permanently deleted from the system, so use caution when using this option.

7.5 System Settings

You might occasionally want to change the settings of the system hardware so that it’s better suited to your needs. For example, you might want to change the brightness of the screen. Changes of the system settings are performed in **Advanced Settings**.

To modify the System Settings:

- Choose the **Edit** menu.
- Choose **Advanced Settings, (**if Advanced Settings is not highlighted choose **General Settings>Advanced** tab and check **Advanced Setting**s).
- Choose the **System tab.**

The following hardware dialogs are available:

- **Screen Calibration** - adjusts the touch screen if your device is not responding accurately to screen taps. To do so, tap the **Screen Calibration** button. Choose **Screen Calibration** tab. Recalibrate the touch screen by following the on screen instructions.
- **Backlight** - set the screen brightness.
- **Input** - configure the on-screen mini-keyboard, the word completion options, writing and recording options
- **Clock** - adjusts time and alarm settings
- **Power –** displays the remaining capacity of the battery. Automatic dimming and power down times can be set under this option.

7.6 Hardware Keys

The **ALT-CHAT** has some hardware keys along the top of the front of the device. While running **ALT-CHAT**, they can provide additional buttons for performing system functions. Setup of the Hardware Keys is done in the **Advanced Settings** menu.

- Choose **Edit>General Settings.**
- Choose the **Advanced** tab.
- Check **Advanced Settings.**
- Choose **Edit>Advanced Settings.**
- Scroll to the right and choose the **Hardware Keys** tab.

The **I/O button** is dedicated to powering on and off the device. The **Tools button** is dedicated to entering and exiting full screen view. Buttons **1 and 2** can be set to perform any of the following actions:

- No operation
- Clear Display
- Navigate to Home/Navigate Back
- Stop
- Volume Up/Down
- Toggle
- Resume

When finished setting the Hardware Keys, choose **OK** in upper right corner.

8. Using Abbreviations to Speak Words

8.1 ALT-CHAT Abbreviation Editor

Abbreviations can be used instead of writing the whole word. For example, you can use a speak button to pronounce an abbreviation typed in the SDB.

- To create an abbreviation:
- Tap on the **Edit** menu
- Choose **Abbreviations** (a new pop-up dialog will appear). You can use this dialog to create, edit, and delete abbreviations.

To create an abbreviation, tap on the **New** button. The Abbreviation screen will be triggered. Use the keyboard to type abbreviation which you want to be expanded in the slot labeled **Abbreviation**. Then spell out the whole word in the slot labeled **Expand to**.

Tap the **OK** button. The new abbreviation and its expansion will appear in the list. If you want to change the abbreviation, you can edit it using the **Edit** button. Save the created abbreviation by tapping the **OK** button on the upper-left corner of the screen.

To edit an abbreviation already in the abbreviation list, tap on it to select it in the abbreviation list and then tap the **Edit** button. The same popup dialog used for entering a new abbreviation will appear, with the **Abbreviation** and **Expand to** fields already filled in. You will be able to change both the **Abbreviation** and **Expand to** fields. When you are done editing the abbreviation, tap the **OK** Button. The modified abbreviation will appear in the abbreviation list.

You can remove an entry from the abbreviation list by first selecting the abbreviation in the list, then tapping on the **Delete** button. This abbreviation exception will be permanently deleted from the system, so use caution when using this option.

To use the abbreviation, open the keyboard page, type the abbreviation followed by a period. The abbreviation should automatically be expanded.

9. ALT-CHAT Tools for Literacy

9.1 ALT-CHAT Dictionaries

ALT-CHAT uses a Static Word and Character Prediction system. You can choose among 10,000, 30,000, & 60,000 word dictionaries.

We have plans to include a Dynamic Word & Character Prediction, but it is not available at this time.
The dynamic word/character dictionaries will keep a history of SDB words/characters' usage and create a library as it goes.

Some of the **ALT-CHAT** keyboard pages are set up with pre-defined Word Prediction buttons. These buttons predict the next most probable word. The prediction result is displayed in the display by tapping on any of the word prediction buttons (see section 5.15 for setting up word or character prediction buttons).

9.2 ALT-CHAT Dictionary Editor

ALT-CHAT allows you to change some dictionary settings by using the Prediction settings menu.

- Activate the **Edit Mode** (See section Going into Edit mode)
- Tap on the **Edit** menu
- Choose **Advanced Settings**
- The Prediction Settings properties will be displayed
- Check the **Enable Static Prediction** box if you want to use a static word prediction dictionary. Then check the size of the static dictionary you choose to use.
- (Not available at this time)Check the **Enable dynamic prediction** box if you want to use a dynamic word prediction dictionary. Enter number of words in the **History:** field, for example 10000 words. Enter seconds in the **Compile every:** field to set the time of compilation, for example every five seconds. In our example, the dynamic word prediction dictionary will work with 10000 words and will update them every 5 seconds.
- Tap **OK** to apply the prediction settings.

9.3 Character Prediction (Dynamic Character Prediction is not available at this time)

The **Static Character Prediction** button will display the most probable character in compliance with the current character displayed in the SDB, the assigned prediction order and the static character list used by the dictionary.

The dynamic character prediction uses the history created while you are using your **ALT-CHAT**. The **Dynamic Character Prediction** button will display the most probable character in compliance with the current character displayed in the SDB, the assigned prediction order and the history used by the dictionary.

9.4 Choosing to use a different Keyboard

Saltillo has provided a number of keyboards throughout the system. All of the Saltillo Keyboards are provided as a Template. To use one of these keyboards:

- Go to **Edit Mode** and document the keyboard's name.
- Edit the button that currently navigates to the old keyboard.
- Choose the **Action** tab.

- Tap on **Navigate** to highlight the action.
- Choose **Set.**
- Choose the new keyboard (open vocab file).

Now the button should navigate to the new keyboard.

Modify any of the buttons by changing their color or appearance, action or whatever it is that is needed.

Create a button that links to the keyboard:
- Choose the Page that you would like a link to your keyboard from.
- Enter **Edit Mode.**
- Push and maintain (right click if using the DesktopChat^{SE}) the button to add the link to.
- Choose an action of **Navigate.**
- Choose the new keyboard page to link it to.
- Finish modifying the button with a picture or label to represent the key.

Using various sizes of buttons on keyboards. Often times on a keyboard page the sizes of buttons vary.

To modify the size of one button on a page:
- Enter **Edit Mode.**
- Tap and hold one of the buttons that you would like to resize.
- Choose **Change Button size.**
- Choose how many cells wide (horizontal) and tall (vertical) the button needs to be.
- Choose **OK.**

Adding Word Prediction and Character Prediction Buttons to a keyboard.
- Enter **Edit Mode.**
- Tap and hold the button that you would like to create.
- Choose **Create New Button.**
- Choose the **Action** tab.
- Choose the needed prediction button from the listing.
- You will be prompted to add a prediction order. (The **ALT-CHAT** software keeps track of the words chosen and keeps them in order. when setting up the prediction keys you will need to determine which button displays which word i.e. you may want the most frequently used word, #1, to be in the upper left button and the second most frequently used word in the lower left.)
- Choose **Apply.**
- There is no need to add a label or icon to the prediction buttons.

9.5 Creating sentences quietly and speaking entire sentence at once
The device user may get to the point where there is not a need for immediate feedback when pushing buttons and would like to generate their message quietly and speak it all at once.

If the vocabulary pages have already been created you will want to go to the **Edit Menu>General settings**>choose the **Speech** tab and uncheck all options. All buttons regardless of their action will not speak when selected. To speak the message from the display, tap the display.

Some options for the way the display is chosen can be modified in the **Edit Menu>General Settings>Speech Display Bar** tab.
- Instead of having all the text spoken immediately when the display is chosen, there is an optional menu to choose specific options when the display is selected. To turn on this option, choose Tap and Hold in the **Move Cursor/Show Menu** option at the bottom on the **Speech Display Bar** tab.

These options will empower the device user when determining what and when things are spoken.

9.6 Creating buttons that include Grammar actions

Grammar actions provide an option for changing the tense of a word currently in the **Speech Display Bar**.
To add a grammar action to a button:

- Enter **Edit Mode.**
- Tap and hold the button for the Grammar action.
- Choose **create new button.**
- Choose the **Actions** tab.
- Choose from the listing of Grammar actions (i.e. +ed).
- Finish modifying the button with either an icon or label.

10. Switch Scanning

As an alternative to directly selecting each button on the screen, **ALT-CHAT** offers single switch and two switch scanning. Options for customizing a scanning technique are in the **Edit>Switch Settings** menu.

10.1 Scan Settings

Scan Settings	Description
Input	Defines the Selection method (1 Switch, 2 Switch), Scanning mode destination, Scanning options (Latched Scanning, Skip Empty Cells, Active on Release, Reverse Direction).
Timing	Defines the Switch Timing, Scanning Timing and the Initial Delays.
Options	Defines Feedback (Beeps for scan & activation, and volume), and color of scanning cursor.
Patterns	Defines the scanning patterns, scan SDB option.
Prompts	Defines the prompt destination (speaker, earphone), Prompt type, Prompt Substitution, and Earphone Volume.

10.2 Switch Input

If external switches are required for a selection site, plug the switch in either the switch A or switch B connector on the right side panel of the device. Another option would be to use the screen of the device as a switch (see below). The Switch is not automatically detected; therefore the Menu items need selected to match the switch position.

- Choose **Switch Settings** from the **Edit** Menu
- Set the Selection Method to **One Switch**
- Choose the mode of scan that is most appropriate, **Row/Column** will scan down through the rows and then scan the selected row with a tap of the screen, **Linear** starts scanning left to right across each row, and **Circular** starts in the upper left toward the right and then starts the next row in the right and goes to the left.
- Check **Scanning On**
- Check any other options that may be appropriate
    - **Latched scanning** – requires a switch activation to start the scan and then it continues to scan through each item until the next switch activation makes a selection. With Latched Scanning Off, a switch activation is required to move the scan through each button, one at a time.
    - **Skip Empty Cells** will skip over a cell without a button.
    - **Activate on Release** – makes the actual activation when the switch is released instead of activating immediately upon the push
    - With **Reverse Direction** selected the direction of the scan will be from right to left instead of left to right.
- Choose **Switch Setup** and check the corresponding **jacks.** The jacks are labeled on the edge of the device. If using an external single switch, choose the corresponding letter. If using two switches, check the corresponding jack of the switch you want to use to Advance the scan and to make a selection.

Use the other tabs to modify the scanning options to meet the device user's specific needs.

Using the Touchscreen to Scan

There are times when a device user isn't capable of activating specific areas on the screen, i.e. maybe doesn't have the pointing skills to hit one button. Using the touchscreen to scan allows the device user to tap anywhere on the front of the screen to initiate a scan of the buttons. Scanning is typically only used if the device user can't activate a specific button on a page and needs one specific target. In this scenario the front screen of the device can act as a single switch.

To set up the Touchscreen to Scan:

- Choose **Switch Settings** from the **Edit** Menu.
- Set the Selection Method to **One Switch.**
- Choose the mode of scan that is most appropriate, **Row/Column** will scan down through the rows and then scan the selected row with a tap of the screen, **Linear** starts scanning left to right across each row, and **Circular** starts in the upper left toward the right and then starts the next row in the right and goes to the left.
- Check **Scanning On.**
- Check any other options that may be appropriate.
    - **Latched scanning** – requires a screen tap to start the scan and then it continues to scan through each item until the next screen tap makes a selection. With Latched Scanning Off a screen tap is required to move the scan through each button, one at a time.
    - **Skip Empty Cells** will skip over a cell without a button.
    - **Activate on Release** – makes the actual activation when the finger or stylus is released from the screen instead of activating immediately upon the push.
    - With **Reverse Direction** selected the direction of the scan will be from right to left instead of left to right.
- Choose **Switch Setup** and check **Use as a switch** in the Touch screen option.

Use the other tabs to modify the scanning options to meet the device user's specific needs.

Scan Mode

Row/Column

The scan highlights each row of buttons beginning with the top row and moving down the screen. When the row that contains the button you want is highlighted, activate your switch. The scan will highlight the separate columns in the row you selected, moving from left to right across the screen. When the button you want is highlighted, activate your switch.

Linear

Step through the keys from left to right across the rows.

Circular

Step through the keys from left to right across the top row and then right to left across the next row

Scanning On

Check this option to turn the scanning option On. Uncheck **Scanning On** to turn scanning off.

➲**Note:** The keyboard is accessible by direct select regardless if Scanning is On or Off as long as **Use Screen as Switch** isn't checked in the **Switch Setup** menu.

Latched Scan

If Latched Scan is On, the scan will continue to scan after the switch has been chosen and released. **Latched Scanning** off requires the switch to be held to keep the scan moving.

Skip Empty Cells

Empty cells are buttons that haven't been created yet. If **Skip Empty Cells** is checked, the scan will skip over these cells to save time when scanning.

10.3 Scan Timing

Acceptance Time

The amount of time you must hold your switch down before the button you have scanned to is accepted. For example, if you set acceptance time for .50 seconds, you must activate and hold your switch for ½ second before the key will be selected.

Release Time

This determines how long to wait after the switch is released before it will accept another activation with the same button or switch. For example, if you set the Release Time for 1 second, you must wait one second after you release the switch before you can continue to scan or activate your switch. If you release your switch and then accidentally activate it again before the release time has passed, your device will not activate. This feature helps eliminate inadvertent double hits.

Scanning Speed

This is the amount of time it takes for your device to move from one button, row, or column to the next in a scan. The default scanning speed is one second. This means it takes one second from the time one key is highlighted until the next key is highlighted.

Number of Rescans

Select the number of times you want your device to automatically scan the page. The default is 3 times then the scan will stop until a switch is activated again.

Initial Delays

Initial delays happen after the switch activation starts the scan but before the area defined. If an initial delay is set for Rows, prior to the system starting the scan of rows, the system will delay the set amount.

Activation Delay

This gives a chance to change your mind when you have selected a button. This is automatically set to your **Scanning Speed**. For example, let's say your scanning speed is set to one second (1.0). You scan to and select a button, then realize it's not the button you want. You have one second to activate your switch again to "de-select" the button and then scan to a new button.

10.4 Scan Options

Activation Beep and Scan Beep

The **Activation/Scan Beep** is the beep you hear when you press or scan to a key. The default is On. You can select the volume.

Checking or unchecking the box turns the beep on or off. If On (checked), then the volume can be set to quiet, normal, or loud.

Scanning Cursor

The **Scan Cursor** highlights the scan position. The color of the button outline defaults to red but can be changed by choosing the color palette in the **Scan Box** option and choosing the preferred color. (Invert Selection will be a future option.)

Auto Repeat

This lets you choose how fast a key will repeat itself when you hold it down

Checking or unchecking the box turns the auto repeat function on or off. If On (checked), then the timing can be modified from betw .1 to 10 seconds.

Auto Repeat Delay is how long the button must be held prior to it starting to repeat and then the **Auto Repeat Rate** determines at what rate it will continue to repeat.

10.5 Scan Patterns

Scan Start

The **Scan Start** option is only available when using two switches to scan with. **Scan Pattern** determines where the scan will re-start after each selection.

Scan Speech Display Bar

Scan Speech Display Bar is an option with 1 & 2 switch scan, checked it will scan the **Speech Display Bar**, unchecked it won't. Choosing the **Speech Display Bar** will speak all text.

10.5.1 Auditory Scan Prompts

Scanning with Auditory Prompting on, provides not only a visual cue but an auditory cue to indicate where the scan is currently. If you are scanning, simply activate your switch. To retrieve a message, activate the switch again after you have heard the prompt.

Prompt Destination

You can hear prompts through the device's speaker. You can also plug stereo headphones into the Headphone jack on the side of the case. This allows you, but not others, to hear the prompts. If you are using headphones, choose the **Earphone** option.

Prompt Type

When **Auditory Prompts** are turned **On**, your device defaults to speaking the **label** of any button you activate. This is whatever the label is that has been assigned to a specific button. If you changed a label during the storing process, the prompt will be whatever you changed the label to. For example, you may have changed the UMBRELLA label to "Weather." The prompt will be "Weather" in that case.

Content tells your device to speak whatever message is stored on the button.

Prompt Substitution

If prompts are set to **Label** and the button doesn't have a label it will use whatever substitution is chosen here. The Substitution is also used for Rows when **Row/Column Scanning**.

Earphone Volume

Determines how loud the prompt is when using an earphone or headset.

11. Troubleshooting

11.1 I don't have any Speech/Sound

The following items may be causing speech problems.

- Check the **Edit >Speech Off** option and make sure it is not checked.
- View the speech options, bring up the speech tab under the General Settings dialog (from the **Edit** menu, select **General Settings.**
- Review the voice settings to ensure they are correct, and be sure the volume is towards the loud setting.

11.2 Restarting the ALT-CHAT

If for any reason you don't see **ALT-CHAT** running, perform a soft reset.

11.3 Finding and Loading Your Vocabulary File

If the device user's vocabulary is not in place, choose File>Vocab File>Load Vocab File and choose their vocabulary file from the listing. If it isn't in the listing, the vocabulary file will need to be copied from the thumb drive where it has been backed up.

11.4 Soft Reset

There may be times when the **ALT-CHAT** needs a soft reset. If the software finds itself confused or if the touchscreen doesn't seem to be activating a soft reset may be needed.

To perform a soft reset:

- Turn the device On, if it isn't already
- Unbend a paper clip and poke it into the reset button located on the back of the device.

You will then see the system step through a variety of screens. No activations should be necessary during this process. It will take some time but the **ALT-CHAT** software will re-load on its own.

11.5 Toolbar and Menus are missing

If the Toolbar and Menus typically at the bottom of the screen are missing and the vocabulary pages are still in place, the device has been put into a mode called Full Screen. This is typically done to eliminate the device user from accidentally choosing Menu items.
To exit Full Screen Mode:
Push the Tools button on the top front of the device.

11.6 Text Window is missing or how to hide it

The **ALT-CHAT** is shipped with a text window (SDB) showing at the top of the screen. This typically displays the text as it is being spoken. This display can be hidden with a menu setting in the General Settings. To make it visible again:

- Choose the Edit Menu
- Choose General Settings
- Choose the Speech Display Bar tab
- Check the Visible Box

If the **Visible** option is checked and you still don't see the display it may have been resized to a very small size. To resize the Display:

- Make sure you are in **Edit Mode.**
- Choose **Edit>General Settings>Speech Display Bar** tab and change the **SDB height** (default is 26 pts).

11.7 The ALT-CHAT turns Off by itself

There is a feature that automatically shuts the device off after a set amount of time with no activations to conserve the battery in the system. To adjust this time:

- Choose **Edit** Menu
- Choose **General Settings**
- Choose **Advanced** Tab
- Check **Advanced Settings**
- Choose **OK**
- Choose **Edit** Menu
- Choose **Advanced Settings**
- Choose **System** tab
- Choose **Power**
- Adjust the **Power Settings**

11.8 The screen is too dark

- Choose **Edit** Menu
- Choose **General Settings**
- Choose **Advanced** Tab
- Check **Advanced Settings**
- Choose **OK**
- Choose **Edit** Menu
- Choose **Advanced Settings**
- Choose **System** tab
- Choose **Backlight**
- Adjust the backlight settings

11.9 The screen is not responding

Sometimes a crumb can be stuck between the casing of the **ALT-CHAT** and the front screen and it can keep the touchscreen from activating. To free the crumb, take a corner of a piece of paper and slide it between the case and the touchscreen. Do this around all four sides. The paper should slide freely the entire way around the screen.

If the screen continues not to respond, perform a soft reset (see above).

11.10 If the vocabulary buttons don't activate but the menus do

ALT-CHAT has been provided with settings to modify how the touchscreen responds whenever a button is pressed. This is necessary to eliminate accidental double activations, etc. Prior to making any changes to the settings make sure that they haven't been intentionally set up in this manner by an Occupational or Physical Therapist. To change the touchscreen settings, choose **Edit Menu>General Settings** and modify the **Button Timing** settings as needed.

11.11 Adjusting Imported Image Size (DesktopChat^{SE})

There are times when importing a picture that the image doesn't fill the button area. There are a number of options to adjust the size of the image being imported:
-choose **Edit** menu>**Advanced Settings**
-choose the **Symbols Options** tab

Note: the size of the image currently being imported is 200 x 200
To determine the size of your button go to **Edit>General Settings>Style** and check **Show Button Size** in **Edit Mode**. Then the size will appear in parentheses on the buttons.

- Enter these numbers as the new width and height.
- Choose **Apply.**
- Choose **OK** and re-import your picture.

Resize with button allows either all images, no images, or just transparent images to be adjusted. The system defaults to selecting images with transparency.

Note: Saltillo always keeps the pictures ratio so depending on the size of the original picture it may not fill the entire button area.

There is an option to have the icon use the entire button area if having the label area open is not needed. To do this:

- Choose **Edit>General Settings**.
- Choose the **Style** tab.
- Check "**Use Entire Button Area**".
- Choose **OK** in the upper right corner.

11.12 Resource *_* is "Original" and can not be modified.

The default vocabularies supplied by Saltillo can not be modified. To use one of the files:

- Choose the **File** menu
- Choose **Vocab File>Save Vocab File As**
- Give the file a new name (i.e. Susie's Vocabulary)

You can now modify the new file.

11.13 Loading the Default Library Manually to DesktopChat^{SE}

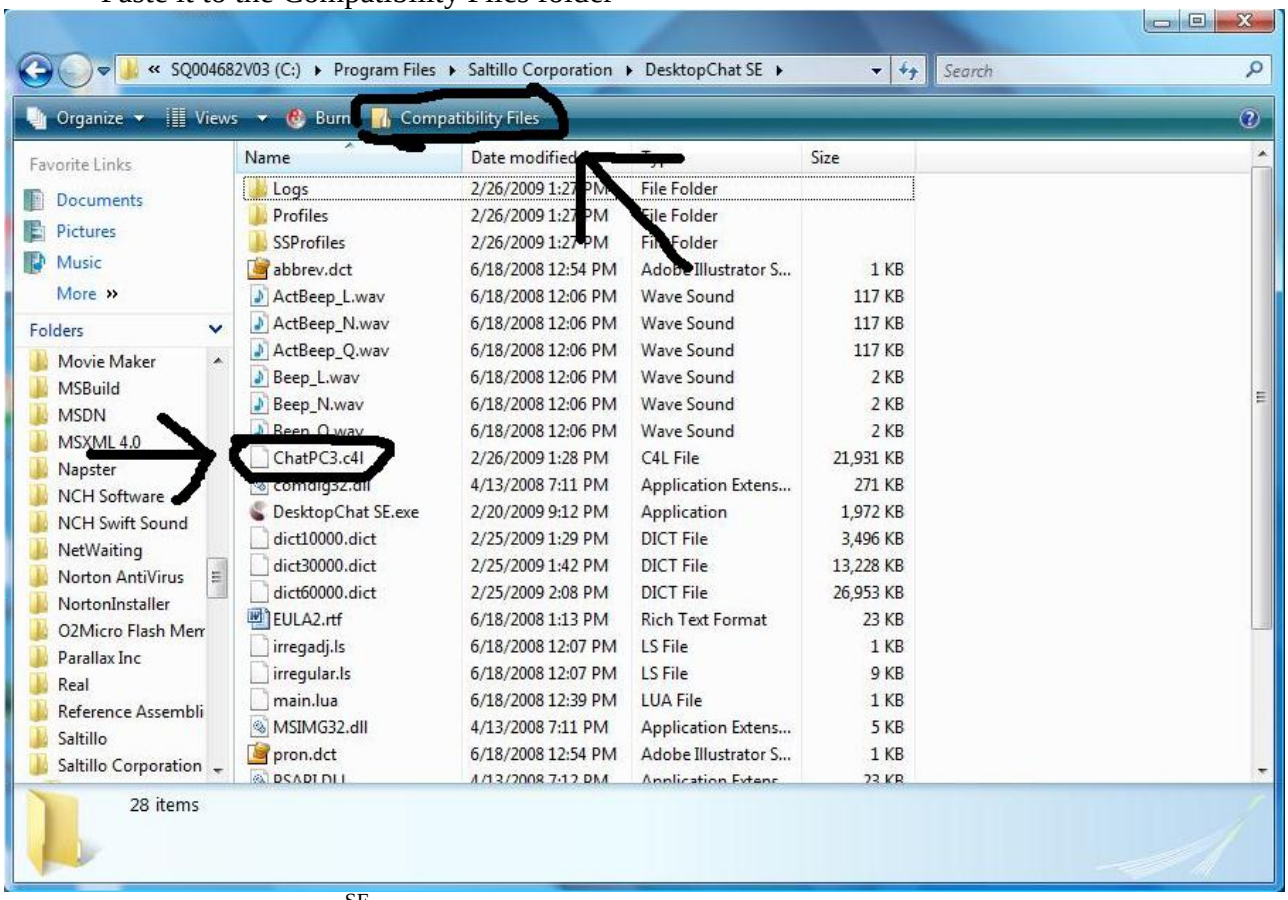
There are times that the library files may not be allowed to install automatically and need to be copied manually to your computer, to do this:

- Open My Computer to view the contents of the DesktopChat^{SE} CD
- Open the Default Library folder
- Drag the "Desktop" folder to the desktop of the computer (should see files copying)
- Open the folder once it's on your computer, Select and Copy the file
- Paste the file in the following path: Local Disk>Program Files>Saltillo Corporation> DesktopChat^{SE}
- Choose to "Replace" existing file
- Go back up to "Ensure Proper installation" and make sure things have copied properly.

11.14 Installing DesktopChat[SE] on a Windows machine running Vista

When starting DesktopChat[SE] you may not have the Saltillo provided vocabulary files showing. If this is true:

- Go to **Program Files>Saltillo Corporation>DesktopChat SE**
- Choose to copy the ChatPC3.c4l file
- Paste it to the Compatibility Files folder


SQ004682V03 (C:) ▸ Program Files ▸ Saltillo Corporation ▸ DesktopChat SE ▸
Search
Organize
Views
Burn
Compatibility Files
Favorite Links
Documents
Pictures
Music
More »
Folders
Movie Maker
MSBuild
MSDN
MSXML 4.0
Napster
NCH Software
NCH Swift Sound
NetWaiting
Norton AntiVirus
NortonInstaller
O2Micro Flash Mem
Parallax Inc
Real
Reference Assembli
Saltillo
Saltillo Corporation
Name
Date modified
Size
Logs 2/26/2009 1:27 PM File Folder
Profiles 2/26/2009 1:27 PM File Folder
SSProfiles 2/26/2009 1:27 PM File Folder
abbrev.dct 6/18/2008 12:54 PM Adobe Illustrator S... 1 KB
ActBeep_L.wav 6/18/2008 12:06 PM Wave Sound 117 KB
ActBeep_N.wav 6/18/2008 12:06 PM Wave Sound 117 KB
ActBeep_Q.wav 6/18/2008 12:06 PM Wave Sound 117 KB
Beep_L.wav 6/18/2008 12:06 PM Wave Sound 2 KB
Beep_N.wav 6/18/2008 12:06 PM Wave Sound 2 KB
Beep_Q.wav 6/18/2008 12:06 PM Wave Sound 2 KB
ChatPC3.c4l 2/26/2009 1:28 PM C4L File 21,931 KB
4/13/2008 7:11 PM Application Extens... 271 KB
DesktopChat SE.exe 2/20/2009 9:12 PM Application 1,972 KB
dict10000.dict 2/25/2009 1:29 PM DICT File 3,496 KB
dict30000.dict 2/25/2009 1:42 PM DICT File 13,228 KB
dict60000.dict 2/25/2009 2:08 PM DICT File 26,953 KB
EULA2.rtf 6/18/2008 1:13 PM Rich Text Format 23 KB
irregadj.ls 6/18/2008 12:07 PM LS File 1 KB
irregular.ls 6/18/2008 12:07 PM LS File 9 KB
main.lua 6/18/2008 12:39 PM LUA File 1 KB
MSIMG32.dll 4/13/2008 7:11 PM Application Extens... 5 KB
pron.dct 6/18/2008 12:54 PM Adobe Illustrator S... 1 KB
28 items

- Open DesktopChat[SE]
- Go to **File>Vocab File>Load Vocab File**

Now the Saltillo provided vocabulary files should be in place.

12. Saltillo Tech Support

Please feel free to email us at any time:

For general support of any kind use support@saltillo.com

Contact us by phone Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at **1-800-382-8622**

Or visit our website any time at www.saltillo.com

13. Reference Section

13.1 Cleaning Up and Deleting Vocabulary Files

ALT-CHAT provides two options for removing unused vocabulary files.

- The **Clean Up** option permanently deletes all unused (unlinked) resource items in a vocabulary file. This option does not delete the vocabulary file itself but provides your device with a valuable storage space. **Use caution when using this option it will delete items Permanently.**
- The **Delete** option removes permanently the selected vocabulary file and all resources linked to this file. This is found by choosing **File>Vocab File>Delete Vocab File**.

13.2 Table-Based Description of all Menus and Menu Options

Menu	Menu Option	Sub-Menu Option	Sub-Menu Option	Description
File	Language	US English		
	Vocab File	Load Vocab File		Loads a selected vocabulary file.
		New Vocab File		Creates a new Vocabulary file.
		Save Vocab File As		Saves the current Vocabulary File with a new name.
		Delete Vocab File		Deletes a Vocabulary File permanently. (May take more than an hour to do.)
	Export			Exports manually the current vocabulary file to another computer.
	Exit			Cause **ALT-CHAT** to shut down.
Edit	Edit Mode			
	Modify Vocab Files	Create	New Page	Creates a new page in the current vocabulary file.
			Duplicate Page	Creates a copy of a selected page. If the selected page is linked to other resources, they will be duplicated recursively.
			New Page from Template	If any templates have been created this option allows you to make a copy of the template.
			New Button	Creates a new button.
			Duplicate Button	Creates a copy of a selected button. If the selected button is linked to other resources, they will be duplicated recursively.
			New Button from Template	If any templates have been created this option allows you to make a copy of the template.
		Edit	Vocab File	Allows modifications of a selected vocabulary file.
			Page	Allows modifications of a selected page.
		Rename	Vocab File	Renames a selected vocabulary file in the list of vocabulary file resources.
			Page	Renames a selected page in the list of pages.
			Button	Renames a selected button in the list of buttons.
			Image	Renames a selected image in the list of images.
			Audio	Renames a selected audio file in the list of sounds.

Menu	Menu Option	Sub-Menu Option	Sub-Menu Option	Description
	Abbreviations			Navigates you to a dialog for managing abbreviations.
	Pronunciations			Navigates you to a dialog for managing pronunciations.
	General Settings			Navigates you to a dialog for managing Timing, Style, SDB and Voice settings.
		Timing	Acceptance Time	Determines the amount of time it takes for the **ALT-CHAT** to accept a location and activate the key
			Release Time	Determines a delay after the release of a button before the next one will be selected
			Activate on Release	In **Selection Release** mode you can touch anywhere on the screen and drag your finger (or stylus) around until you are on the button you want. Releasing on the desired button will select it.
		Style	Images	Option to use the entire button for the icon
			Button Modifiers	Button Modifiers are the small arrows in the corners, these options modify their appearance.
			Gradient Fill	Adds color and an appearance of depth to a button
		Speech Display Bar	General	Determines where and how the text appears in the speech display bar
			Speak cursor	Determines if the display will speak when tapped or not
			Move Cursor/Show Menu	Instead of automatically speaking when selected, an optional menu will appear when selecting the speech display bar
		Speech	Speak	Determines which buttons are automatically spoken when selected
		Voice	General	Choosing the voice, the speed, volume and pitch the voice is spoken.
		Advanced	Advanced	An option to enable/disable the advanced settings menu
	Advanced Settings			Navigates you to a dialog for managing Prediction, Abbreviations, Pronunciations, Import, Drag and Drop, System and Full Screen settings.
		Prediction	Static	Turns Static prediction on/off and offers different dictionary sizes to choose from
		NOT AVAILABLE	Dynamic	Turns Dynamic prediction on/off and determines how many words it keeps track of and how often it's updated.
		Abbreviations	General	Turns abbreviation expansion on/off
			Manage	Set up abbreviation expansions here
		Pronunciations	General	Turns on/off pronunciation exceptions
			Voice	
			Manage	Set up pronunciation exceptions here
		Import	General	Guidelines for importing process
			Conflict resolution	Guidelines for importing process
		Drag and drop settings	General	Determines how the drag and drop feature works while editing pages
		System		Offers access to specific PocketPC system settings without leaving **ALT-CHAT**.
		Hardware Keys		Enables set-up of each hardware button of the HP machine.
		Symbols		Changes the size of pictures being imported.
		Library	Cleanup	Caution: This option will "Cleanup" aka, DELETE,

Menu	Menu Option	Sub-Menu Option	Sub-Menu Option	Description
			Library	all items in the Library that are not currently being used in a vocabulary file.
	Switch Settings			Navigates you to a dialog for managing scan settings.
		Input	Switch Input	Determines how many switches and how they will scan
			Switch Setup	Determines what switches (or touchscreen) will be used to scan with
		Timing	Switch Timing	Determines how long the switch will need to be held prior to activation
			Scanning Timing	How fast the scanning will occur between buttons
			Initial Delays	Determines how much of a delay there will be between the vocabulary boxes
		Options	Feedback	Determines if any there will be auditory beeps when scanning
			Auto Repeat	Determines if a button will repeat when the switch is held or not, or how long the switch must be held prior to repeating
		Patterns	Scanning Pattern	Determines which order the device will scan the buttons
		Prompts	Auditory Prompting	Determines if the Auditory Prompts are used while scanning , where they will be heard, and what will be prompted
		Voice	Auditory Prompt Voice	Determines which Voice voice will be used for the auditory prompt
		Switches	Switch Setup	Hardware switch setup will determine which switches will be used for each scanning function i.e. select
	Speech Off			Turns off the speech synthesizer of your **ALT-CHAT**.
	Add Space			Adds a space to all words when printed to the display
View	Screen	PocketPC		Displays MS start menu, the SDB, the Display bar and the Menu bar (not available in **ALT-CHAT** model)
		Normal		Displays the SDB on top, the Display bar in the middle and the Menu bar and Toolbar on bottom
		Full Screen		Hides the menus and the tool bar.
		Resize with keyboard		Allows the Display bar to resize with the keyboard.
	Go To	Page		Navigates you to a page of the current vocabulary file.
		Back		Forwards to the previously used page of the current vocabulary file.
		Forward		Forwards to the next page of the current vocabulary file.
		Home Page		Forwards to the very first page of the current vocabulary file (the home page).
Help	About			Links to useful information about your **ALT-CHAT**.
	Registration			Navigates you to a registration dialog screen. The registration number for the **ALT-CHAT** device can be found on the back of the device. The registration number for DesktopChat^{SE} can be found on the CD case that the DesktopChat^{SE} software came in.

14. Care and Maintenance

Your **ALT-CHAT** device is intended for use in normal communication situations. Your device is not waterproof, so use extreme caution when using it around water. As with most electronic devices you should *never* use **ALT-CHAT** when you are actually in the water (for example, a pool or bath).

If you wish to clean the plastic and glass portions of your device, use a cloth *dampened* with water or diluted window cleaning fluid. Do not spray or splash liquid directly on the device. For additional cleaning power, moisten a clean cloth in a mixture of one part water and one part vinegar.

The ALT-Chat batteries are designed specifically for this device. If you have to replace your batteries, they must come from Saltillo. Call Saltillo to order new batteries or if you think you have a problem with your batteries.

Warning!

Use only the battery charger that came with your device.
Other chargers may damage the batteries in your device.

➲ **If you plan to store the ALT-CHAT for a month or more without using it:**

Charge the batteries to Full. Turn the device face down on a flat surface. Unscrew the two screws that hold the battery door in place. Remove the battery door. Disconnect the batteries. Replace the battery door and reattach the screws.

➲ **Remember!** You cannot store when the batteries are low.

If you discard all or part of your device, dispose of all electronic components according to local regulations. Replacement and repair of the electronic components of your device should only be done by qualified service personnel. Contact Saltillo for instructions on how to get your **ALT-CHAT** device repaired. 1-800-382-8622

15. Warranty

Saltillo warrants the **ALT-CHAT** and **ALT-CHAT+** to be free from defect in material and workmanship under normal use for a period of one year from date of purchase. **ALT-CHAT-D+** is covered for three years from date of purchase. Saltillo Corporation considers bending of the unit or any breaks or cracks in the LCD screen to be misuse but will consider a one time replacement of touchscreen/display during the warranty period.

Extended warranties are available by contacting Saltillo Corporation at 1-800-382-8622.

All warranty and service should be arranged through Saltillo Corporation.

16. Index

Abbreviations, 59
Access, 63-66, 73
Actions, 50, 53-56
    Combining, 50
    Windows, 55, 56
Alphabet, 14, 20, 23, 60, 61
Background Pictures, 44
Backlight, 57, 68
Backup, 52
Battery, 6, 9, 12, 16, 38, 75
    Charging, 6, 9, 12, 75
    Status, 6, 16, 38
Buttons, 25-39, 43
    Creating, 25
    Disable, 29
    Hide, 29
    Label, 27
    Message, 27
    Modifying, 30-32
    Picture, 27-29
    Properties, 25
    Size, 43
    Speaking, 25-30
Charging, 6, 9, 12, 75
Clean, 75
Clock, 57
Color, 30, 56
Copy, 20, 42, 43, 45, 47
    Buttons, 42, 43
    Pages, 45
    Vocabulary Files, 20, 47
Date/Time, 39
Delete, 49
DesktopChat[SE], 7, 8, 70
    Installing, 70
    Open, 7
    Sizing, 8
Digitized recording, 34-36
Display, 14, 17, 18
Duplicate, 20, 42, 43, 45, 47
    Buttons, 42, 43
    Pages, 45
    Vocabulary Files, 20, 47
Edit Mode, 17, 22
Export, 51
Factory Default, 52
Font, 30, 56
Full Screen, 9, 55
Functions, 50, 53, 54
Grammar Actions, 62
Hardware, 9-13, 58
Headphones, 11
Home Page, 46

Icon, 27-29, 44, 69
Image, 69
    Digital, 69
Import, 46, 51, 69
    Pictures, 69
    Vocab Files, 51
    Page, 46
Keyboards, 14, 20, 23, 60, 61
    Programming, 14, 20, 23, 60, 61
Language, 72
Library, 17, 69
Link, pages, 41, 42
Maintenance, 75
Menus, 9, 14, 19, 20, 67, 72-74
    Hide, 9
Microphone, 9, 11
Navigate, 41, 42
On/Off 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 57, 68
    Auto Power Down, 57
    Batteries, 6, 9, 12
    Button, 9, 16
    On/Off, 9, 15
    Troubleshooting, 68
Original, 8, 52, 67, 69
Pages, 23-25, 39-41, 43-47
    Creating, 23-25, 45, 46
    Deleting, 49
    Editing, 47
    Resizing, 43
PalmChat, 8, end of this manual
Paste buttons, 20, 42, 43, 45, 47
Picture, 27-29, 44, 69
    Adding, 27-29
    Digital, 69
    Background, 44
PocketPC, 55, 56
Power, 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 57, 58, 68
    Auto Power Down, 57, 68
    Batteries, 6, 12, 16
    Button, 9, 16
    On/Off, 15,
    Troubleshooting, 68
Printing Pages, 52
Pronunciations, 57
Recordings, 9, 34-36
Registration, 7,
Remove, 49
Rename, 48, 49
Reset, 10, 67
Run Mode, 17, 22
Saltillo, contact, 71
Scanning, 63-66
    Auditory, 66
SDB, 14, 17, 18, 31-33, 56, 67
Secure Digital Card Slot, 12

Shift, 54
Size, 8, 30, 43, 56, 73
    Buttons, 43
    Desktop, 8
    Display, 73
    Font, 30, 56
Sounds, 65, 67
Speech, 56, 61
Speech Display Bar (SDB) 14, 17, 18, 31-33, 56, 67
Stand, 10
Strap, 13
Style, 30, 56
Support, 71
Switch Connectors, 11
Technical Support, 71
Templates, 45, 46
Text Window, 14, 18
Time/Date, 39
Timing, 65, 73
Toolbar, 14, 19, 20, 67
Touchscreen, 14, 55, 57, 68
    Screen Calibration, 57
Transfer, 46, 51, 69
Troubleshooting, 67-70
USB Port, 11
Visit, 41, 42
    Exceptions, 42
Vista, 70
Visual Scene, 44
Vocabulary File, 17, 20, 22-50, 67, 72
    Create, 22, 47, 48
    Delete, 49, 72
    Saltillo-provided, 20
    Open, 22
    Modifying, 22-50
Volume, 37
Windows, 55, 56, 70
Wheelchair Mounting Plate, 10
Word Prediction, 37, 38, 60, 61
Warranty, 76